

AN AUTHORITY CONFLICT OF BATAM BUSINESS AGENCY WITH BATAM CITY GOVERNMENT BASED ON JOHN GAVENTA LEVEL DIMENSION

Herabudin

*Research Scholar, Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,
UIN Sunan Gunung Dati, Bandung, Indonesia*

ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe power conflicts in the area of Batam's free trade zone (FTZ) using qualitative research methods. The theory used by Powercube according to John Gaventa specializes in the level Dimension approach. After the issuance of Law Number. 53 of 1999 concerning Regional Government, affecting the status of Batam City to become the City Government of Batam. The positive effect that occurs, the Batam region has two bodies that have authority in its management, namely the Batam City Government to carry out the functions of government and development by including the Batam Authority Agency (BP Batam). While the negative effects, Law Number 23 the year 2014 became weak and not fully implemented, with dualism in the management of the Batam area, a conflict of authority emerged between BP Batam and Batam City Government. The dualism of authority that occurred between BP Batam and the Batam City Government would certainly be detrimental to the Batam area. This is because the two authorities claim to have authority in the management of the Batam area. The attitude of prioritizing interests by referring to the legal foundation and the basis of other sides, such as historical and economic and political aspects to strengthen their bargaining position, became the trigger of the conflict.

KEYWORDS: *Powercube, Power Level, Conflict, Actor*

Article History

Received: 24 Jul 2019 | Revised: 26 Aug 2019 | Accepted: 09 Sep 2019

INTRODUCTION

Since the issuance of the law on regional government in 1999 to implement the principle of decentralization, each region in Indonesia was formed by provinces, districts and cities which have the authority to regulate and manage the interests of local communities according to their own initiatives based on the aspirations of the people. Therefore, the Batam area also gained the effect of the issuance of regional government law in 1999. This was stated in the changing status of Batam City into an autonomous Batam City based on Law Number 53 of 1999 concerning the Establishment of Pelalawan District, Rokan Regency Hulu, Rokan Hilir Regency, Siak Regency, Karimun Regency, Natuna Regency, Kuantan Singingi Regency and Batam City. Changes were then made through Law Number 13 of 2000 concerning Amendments to Law Number 53 of 1999.

The issuance of Law Number 53 of 1999 concerning the Establishment of Batam City is certainly a problem with management in the Batam area. In this case, the Batam area which was previously managed by the Batam Authority, now called BP Batam, was not abolished by the central government because of its legal basis and other aspects such as historical, economic and political aspects. This condition has created an overlapping of authority in the management of the

area in Batam City which has caused a conflict between BP Batam and Batam City Government. This conflict occurred because the Batam City Government which should have autonomy in the management of the area in its area was mandated directly by Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, but in fact in the field the Batam City Government did not get extensive autonomy, which was written in the law that regional autonomy is the right, authority and obligation of the autonomous region to regulate and manage the affairs of the government and the interests of the local community in the system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

The existence of BP Batam which also has authority in the management of the Batam area has caused Law No. 23 of 2014 to be weak and not fully implemented. This can be seen from the weakness of Batam as an autonomous region because its functions and authority are shared with BP Batam. The dualism of authority that took place between the Concession Agency of Batam and the Batam City Government was certainly very detrimental to the Batam area because of the two authorities who both claimed to have authority in the management of the Batam area.

The authority mandated in the laws and regulations governing Batam management matters feels biased and causes conflicts that occur among stakeholders in Batam, namely the Batam Business Entity and Batam City government. Conflicts that occur are caused by the attitude of prioritizing interests by referring to the legal basis and the basis of other sides, such as historical and economic and political aspects to strengthen their bargaining position.

As a result of the dualism of authority between BP Batam and Batam City Government, there was a concern that some actors had interests in Batam. This is caused by uncertainty in the management of the Batam area so that initially the conflict only involved BP Batam and Batam City Government slowly enlarged and involved several actors who had the power to participate and enter into a conflict of dualism between BP Batam and Pemko Batam.

Dialectics of power in the context of regional autonomy through a decentralized system is the distribution of power. Political decentralization involves structures and actors. If the power system is said to be a structure, the actors or subjects who control the structure are called actors. However, the actors who play on this political stage are broad, not only central actors and regional actors but all the socio-political elites in the region. There are several regional elites, both directly and indirectly involved in the struggle for power in the regions. Among these elite groups are bureaucratic elites (government), elite political parties, economic elites, religious elites and other community elites. In this study, researchers wanted to see the struggle for power over Batam area management. Each actor who plays a role tries to strengthen, weaken and even extinguish the existence of one of the bodies that currently has power and authority in the management of the Batam area, namely BP Batam and Pemko Batam.

The participation of several political actors who have interests and power in Batam in a conflict of dualism in authority between BP Batam and Pemko Batam is certainly interesting to study theoretically through a political science approach. There is a phenomenon of involvement of political actors who have interests and power in Batam, namely entrepreneurs, the community, the central government, and local governments (Riau Islands Provincial Government and Batam City Government). Each of these actors has a desire that leads to strengthening, weakening and even extinguishing the existence of one of the institutions that currently has authority in the management of the Batam area, namely BP Batam and Pemko Batam.

The researcher wanted to focus the research on the dynamics of power in the Batam free trade zone (FTZ) area (involvement of political actors in the conflict of authority between BP Batam and Batam City Government). In order for this study to produce an interesting discovery, the researchers used the powercube theory, which emphasized the perspective of level

dimensions. In general, according to Gaventa, power has three dimensions, namely the dimensions of the dimensions, the dimensions of space, and the dimensions of forms (Halim, 2014).

In the powercube perspective, the level of power is classified into three scopes, namely global, national, and local or can also use three similar terms, namely supra-national, national and sub-national. These three power level concepts are the entrance to discuss the layers of power while still recognizing that the power spectrum is not something static but rather dynamic, which can develop more broadly.

METHODS

This study uses qualitative methods with case study techniques (Yin, 2005; Moleong, 1989). In connection with this research, the researcher will focus on the involvement of political actors in the conflict of authority between the Batam Business Entity and the Batam City Government in the management of the Batam area, the aim of this researcher is to explain the chronology of the involvement of political actors in conflict between the two institutions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the powercube perspective, the level of power is classified into three scopes, namely global, national, and local or can also use three similar terms, namely supra-national, national and sub-national. These three power level concepts are the entrance to discuss the layers of power while still recognizing that the power spectrum is not something static but rather dynamic, which can develop more broadly. Global power is able to penetrate national territorial boundaries. Even globalization itself is referred to as a global village (global village), where the territorial boundaries of each country are shattered. The power of globalization that permeates the boundaries of territories and territories includes various kinds of information, knowledge, lifestyles, cultures and other values.

The depletion of state boundaries and the ability of communication media, according to Revrisond Baswir, turned out to open up opportunities for upper-level groups of society, most of whom came from certain rich countries, to increasingly flap their wings of economic domination throughout the world. Globalization seems to be a free road without obstacles for those who want to control the world economy. As a result, even though a country is blessed with abundant natural wealth, in the era of globalization, this blessing can easily fall into the hands of and be exploited by investors from certain rich countries.

Actors who are influential in the context of global power are politicians of rich countries and the economic elite of multinational corporations. Activists from international institutions are also very influential. Economic institutions and multinational corporations are free to live and dominate the economy of a country. Batam, which is an area that relies on a geographically strategic position which is located on the international trade route and directly borders with other countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia, made the government in 1971 make Batam a bonded warehouse area to support the national economy.

The presence of the Batam Authority is an effect of market economy capitalism. Can researchers describe, that the government was affected by issuing Presidential Decree Number 74 of 1971 concerning the development of Batam Island development which made Batam an industrial area? Then, a special body was formed to manage the Batam industrial area (Otorita Batam) through Keppres No. 41 of 1973, which was in charge and responsible for the development of growth in the area.

On this basis, the Batam Authority automatically becomes a body that facilitates investors to invest in Batam Island. The existence of firmness in the form of legal policy has made investors start competing to invest their capital, not only national investors but also global investors. Can researchers describe that Batam as an area that uses the concept of FTZ and also as an area that carries out autonomous governance is strongly influenced by the power at the global level? This was especially felt when the conflict between BP and Pemko intensified, making the foreign businessmen begin to issue threats to the Indonesian Government.

In a global power system in such a way, then what is the condition of the national power system, especially in the perspective of the powercube? National power is reflected in national governments that officially represent citizens in the arena of global governance. The national government has the right to decide whether to implement an international agreement or not. For example, when many world activists raise the power to form citizen forums, at the same time, many activities are more concerned with change at the national level, such as attention to the parliamentary executive, courts and so on. This indicates that national power still has choices in accepting or rejecting global power policies.

However, what is the conditions of national power which have been coopted by global power? What is the attitude of national power if it is hegemony and dominated by a system of supra-national authority? Based on the facts that occur in developing countries, if a country falls into the trap of global power, inevitably it must obey the things outlined by global power, which ultimately tend to create a crisis. The strengthening of the authority of global liberalism which is inversely proportional to national authority is evidence that a country co-opted by global interests cannot move. The national government weakens in protecting the interests of its own people, while the economic dependence of poor countries on fulfilling the interests of international investors is increasing.

National actors, who play a role in establishing conspiracies with global capitalist agents, are government elites, economic elites, and socio-religious elites. Often the government elite is powerless to face the pressure of agents of global capitalism to control national economic assets. Elite governments are bound by contracts to make policies that are pro-transnational foreign interests. National power is reflected in the decision making to realize Batam into an industrial area intended to make Batam a national economic locomotive that supports national income. Associated with national level power, it is clear that the dominance of power from the central government, long before the wishes of the central government to create BP Batam, namely the central government's decision to make Batam a logistical and operational center for businesses related to exploration and exploitation of offshore oil (Presidential Decree Number 74 of 1971 concerning Development of Batam Island Development).

The dominance of national level power in instilling its influence on the formation and development of postcolonial Indonesian capitalism, not only in providing political conditions for the capitalists but also providing a fiscal framework and even large capital investment. In this case, the establishment of BP Batam as a manager of free trade areas which has significance for the life of the national economy in general and transactional elites in particular. After the New Order, the concept of local government in Indonesia changed, which was initially centralized to become decentralized, with the birth of Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government. Batam also became an autonomous region as stipulated in Law No. 53 of 1999. Central government euphoria in creating an autonomous regional government made the central government at that time forget that this would create a problem in the management of Batam City. This is because Batam City already has a body that manages the area, the Batam Authority.

Based on the analysis of researchers on this dimension, it can be seen that national interests in Batam are very strong and can even be said to be rooted, as seen from BP Batam's legal strengthening (manifestations from the central government) as managers who have unlimited authority, starting from land management rights (HPL) which is fully held by BP Batam. Furthermore, the authority in controlling the amount of tax on land use, up to the election of the leader of BP Batam. Strong national level power is also evidenced by its ability to control chaos related to demands from both local and international levels regarding the legality status of BP Batam. One of the quick responses from local demands was to make a diversion by issuing a concept of SEZ concept. Meanwhile, at the international level, namely by constantly emphasizing the position of the Batam region as an area designated for a tax-free trade.

Furthermore, how are global or national influences related to local or sub-national power? In many contexts, the space for policymakers at the sub-national (local) level is a critical space of influence to hold and fight the power. Essentially, local politics in the powercube perspective is a constellation of power in the region. If viewed from the historical site where the policy of regional autonomy is the result of regional demands on the centre to decentralize power, regional autonomy is a manifestation of regional capacity to mobilize their power to demand justice for the centre. The regional political movement is a reflection of the awareness of the local community critically on the dominance of the central power in the national context as well as the dominance of global power. The regional political movement is a manifestation of the ability of local communities to identify themselves as marginal parties as a power within.

Conclusions, local actors in the local government elite and local elites, such as the economic elite and community elite, no longer play in the domain of overlapping authority but have led to changes in the concept of Batam area management. Starting from the perspective of the City Government of Batam who wants the FTZ concept to be enclave or not comprehensive, while the Member of Commission I in the Law and Government of Batam City DPRD, Mr Lik Khai prefers the elimination of the FTZ concept in Batam. Different views given by the Chairman of the Batam City DPRD stated that this issue was left to the central government, but he also said that there were proposals about Batam being made a special province. The provincial government prefers that the FTZ concept be changed to KEK (special economic zone) because the Provincial Government's tendencies also have interests in the Batam area.

On the side of local elites such as the economic elite and the community elite, there are also differing views, namely between KADIN and APINDO. KADIN wanted the management of the FTZ to be submitted by the central government to the regional government, while the APINDO party wanted the FTZ which was currently being implemented to be revitalized immediately and further strengthened its position. On the other hand, the community is giving more of these problems to the central government and most importantly so that these problems no longer harm them. It can be seen from the data that the researchers found in the field that there were differences of opinion between several government elites, both the Batam City Government and the Riau Islands Provincial Government, the economic elite and the community elite about the discourse of the Batam area management concept. Each of these actors has their own views on the concepts in Batam area management. Basically, these actors demanded that the management concept in the Batam area be replaced immediately and clarified.

CONCLUSIONS

Level dimensions (level dimensions) consisting of local, national, and global. Each level has an influence on the dynamics of power and the involvement of political actors in the conflict between BP Batam and Pemko Batam in the management of the Batam area. The influence of global power is evident in the management of the Batam area, namely on the grounds

that the Batam area was formed into an industrial area and free trade area because of Batam's position on the international trade route, in the Malacca Strait and directly adjacent to neighboring countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia. In addition, with a large number of foreign direct investments (FDI) in Batam and the many threats from investors to withdraw their capital from Batam Island due to the dualism of management, this has had an influence on power at national and local levels.

At the national level, it is reflected in the national government. The national government, in this case, the central government realized Batam Island to become an industrial area in 1973 and in 2007 it was in the form of a free trade zone (FTZ). In this case, BP Batam was appointed as the central body that manages the area with great authority and made the regional government in Batam divide its authority which has been regulated in Law Number 32 the Year 2014 concerning Regional Government. Meanwhile, influences from the local level in the local government elite and local elites such as the local economic elite and community elite, no longer play in the domain of overlapping authority but have led to changes in concepts in Batam area management.

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