

The Impact of National Strategic Project on the Sea Tribe Community: A Case of the Special Economic Zone of Galang Batang, Bintan

Suyito Suyito

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik (STISIP) Bunda Tanah Melayu, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Article History

Submitted: 2 March 2025

Revised: 13 May 2025

Accepted: 1 Juni 2025

Available online: 30 Juni 2025

Correspondence

Email:

suyito@stisipbundatanahmayu.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study discusses the threats of the National Strategic Project (NSP) to the Kawal Sea Tribe community in Bintan Regency. The study focuses on the special economic zone of Galang Batang, Bintan, Kepulauan Riau, operated by PT Bintan Alumina Indonesia (BAI). This study aims to answer the question: "What are the threats of the NSP to the Kawal Sea Tribe community in Bintan Regency?" To answer this question, a qualitative approach is needed as a fundamental reason to explore the experiences of the sea tribe, who feel threatened by the project. The findings of this research show that the NSP of PT Bintan Alumina Indonesia for the development of the industrial zone poses problems in the area, particularly for the Kawal Sea Tribe community. Ideally, such national strategic projects should be a solution for the region. Still, in social reality, the existence of the project has become a threat to the loss of income sources, ancestral graves, and homes of the Sea Tribe community. The threats from the NSP occur because it does not take into account the rights of the Sea Tribe community and environmental justice. These results also contradict the theory that national NSP in the regions have played an essential role in improving the welfare of local communities, as suggested by previous research.

Keywords: Sea Tribe; Orang Suku Laut; National Strategic Project;

This work is licensed under Creative Commons
Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.
© Inspire Kepri Publication, 2023



Introduction

Along with the development of capitalism, the state requires foreign capital to finance infrastructure and strategic industrial development. One of the national strategic projects (NSP) designated by the Indonesian government is the exploitation of aluminum in the Kawal area, Bintan Regency, Riau Islands. The concession for managing this area was granted to PT Bintan Alumina Indonesia [BAI], a mining concession company from China. PT BAI controls an area of 2,300 hectares to extract and process mining products. The company's assets are equivalent to 30 trillion [cnnindonesia.com, 2020, November 28].

In practice, the exploitation carried out by PT BAI has caused various problems and negative impacts, especially for the community or *Orang Suku Laut* (OSL) around the mining site. Some of the effects felt by OSL include the loss of living space and increasing pressure without relocation certainty (siej.or.id, 2025)

The Sea Tribe currently experiences this phenomenon in the coastal Kawal area of Bintan, threatened with eviction by PT BAI, which destroys ecosystems and ancestral graves. This explanation is demonstrated by the presence of the national strategic project (NSP), which will develop the industrial zone

in Kawal. The phenomenon is reinforced by media reports (siej.or.id, 2025) covering the dredging carried out by PT BAI that stretches as far as the eye can see. Nipa and pandan trees planted by the ancestors of the Kawal Sea Tribe now await their turn to be cut down. Thus, the existence of the Sea Tribe in Kawal, Bintan Regency, is threatened with eviction that will destroy ecosystems and ancestral graves due to industrial zone development (Anggriani et al., 2024).

Studies on the threats of national strategic projects (NSP) to the Sea Tribe community have been widely conducted by previous experts or researchers focusing on this issue. These studies tend only to examine the preconditions of such projects. This is proven by previous studies associated with the threats of national strategic projects (NSP), such as: National Strategic Project Called Food Estate: The Threat to Farmers' Autonomy and the Diversity of Local Food Sources in Umbu Mamijuk Village, Central Sumba (Sari, 2024); Deforestation of Protected Forests in the National Strategic Project Food Estate: The Perspective of Maqashid Shariah (Anshari & Permata, 2024); Environmental Issues Regarding Food Estate Regulation as a National Strategic Program in Gunung Mas & Pulang Pisau Villages, Central Kalimantan (Baringbing, 2021); Problems of Land Procurement for National Strategic Projects (Septian, 2023); Agrarian Conflict of Indigenous Malay Tua Communities in Eco City Development on the Island (Puspita et al., 2024); (MAulana, Aditia, 2024); The Role of Investment in National Strategic Project Policies: Rempang Eco City and Its Environmental Implications (Fatmawati, 2024); Resistance of Rempang Island Communities, Batam City, Riau Islands, Against the Rempang Development Plan (Ayuningmas et al., 2023). Therefore, from several previous studies, there has not been much focus on this particular case, so this research should be continued.

Several previous studies have discussed the threats of National Strategic Projects (NSP) to the Kawal Sea Tribe community in Bintan, Indonesia. Research on conflicts between sand mining and fishing communities in South Sulawesi (Mukarromah & Mulyawati, 2023) was motivated by sand mining in South Sulawesi Province carried out by PT. Royal Boskalis, which was protected by government policy, Regional Regulation No. 2 of 2019 on RZWP3K, provides legal protection for sand mining companies, causing marine damage and the loss of fishermen's livelihoods. The method used was qualitative descriptive, using data from literature studies. Many conflicts arose, particularly regarding licensing, which excluded community involvement in forming the regulation and ignored the future impacts on society, including the loss of livelihoods.

Research on the destruction of marine ecosystems due to the Batang Steam Power Plant (PLTU Batang) (Napitupulu et al., 2022) was motivated by the PLTU's need for large amounts of water to operate turbine engines. Seawater was used to rotate turbines for coal combustion, converted into steam, and then returned to the sea in hot conditions, disrupting marine ecosystems such as flora, fauna, and other biota around the disposal area. Researchers used interviews to understand the condition of aquatic ecosystems around PLTU Ujungnegero, Batang, and then offered conservation solutions using the Islamic Worldview with Environmental Fiqh as the framework.

Research conducted by Adrian et al. (2021) on The Impact of Tin Mining Project Activities in Bangka Sea Waters on the Right to Work of Traditional Fishermen was motivated by the fact that tin mining activities in Bangka Sea waters significantly affect the lives of traditional fishermen. The research method was qualitative with a descriptive analytical approach. Sampling used purposive and snowball techniques. Data were collected through interviews, observation, and literature review. Data validity was tested with source and method triangulation, then analyzed with an interactive model. Negative impacts included marine ecosystem damage, disruption of traditional fishermen's mobility routes, distant fishing grounds, increased time and capital requirements for fishing, incompatibility of boats with longer voyages, fishermen being trapped in debt bondage, and increased safety risks at sea.

Research conducted by Agussalim et al. (2023) on Environmental Damage Due to Nickel Mining in Kolaka Regency was motivated by environmental damage caused by mining, particularly nickel mining, which remains a common problem. There is still a lack of collective awareness among various parties to

maintain ecological balance, especially among mining companies. The method used in this study was qualitative research. Data and information were obtained from observations, discussions, and references from books, journals, and online media. The findings revealed environmental damage due to nickel mining caused by mining in forest areas, licensing issues, and conflicts between profit interests and ecological damage.

Research conducted by Wardana & Darmawardana (2024) on Development as a Process of Exclusion: Legal and Political-Economic Studies on National Strategic Projects was motivated by the national strategic project (NSP) agenda, which is a priority development agenda under President Joko Widodo. With claims of serving the public interest, the living spaces of affected communities were taken over to produce new spaces for capital circulation. The article aimed to examine NSP within development discourse and practice. The study argued that the NSP's development model functions through exclusionary power, reflected in assumptions about race, class, and gender. Thus, the NSP operates and is implemented through passive public consent, weakening community resistance.

This paper aims to complement the shortcomings of existing studies by showing three reasons for the threats to the National Strategic Project (NSP) of PT BAI to the Kawal Sea Tribe Community in Bintan. First is the threat of losing the daily income of Kawal Sea Tribe fishermen due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial zone development. Second, the danger of losing the ancestral graves of the Kawal Sea Tribe community due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial zone development. Third, the threat of losing the homes of the Kawal Sea Tribe community due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial zone development.

This research seeks to explore how the threat of PT BAI's national strategic project (NSP) for industrial zones impacts the existence of island communities, especially the Sea Tribe in Kawal Village, Bintan. It strengthens the argument that the national strategic project ignores principles of environmental justice and the existence of indigenous peoples in the area. It indicates that the national strategic project authorized by the central government has marginalized local community interests and the survival needs of the Sea Tribe. Thus, this study needs to examine the threats faced by the Kawal Sea Tribe fishermen due to the national strategic project (NSP) for industrial zone development.

Methods

This research uses a qualitative method through library research by collecting data to understand and examine various literature related to the subject of the study. The research was conducted in stages, beginning with the search for secondary data sources associated with the ongoing phenomenon. Both secondary and primary library research sources were obtained from various sources, such as research journals, books, preliminary studies, and various online media (Yoserizal & Samnuzulsari, 2022). Online media used as secondary data sources included siej.or.id, [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com), [x.com](https://www.x.com), [kompas.com](https://www.kompas.com), ekuatorial.com, and jaringnusa.id. This research focuses on the fishing and Sea Tribe community residing in Kawal, Bintan Regency, who are affected by industrial zone development under the national strategic project (NSP) of PT BAI. The activities of PT BAI in industrial zone development has threatened the existence of the Sea Tribe fishermen in Kawal, thereby threatening the loss of income sources, ancestral graves, and homes of the Sea Tribe community.

Results

Evidence 1. Threat of loss of daily income for fishermen from the Kawal sea tribe due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial area development.



Source Photo: Pandu Wiyogo
Source: [x.com, 2022, Agustus 9]



Source: Yogi Eka Saputra & L. Darmawan/Mongabay Indonesia
Source: Instagram com, 2025, Januari 13

The threat of loss of income for the Kawal sea nomads due to eviction by PT BAI is evident in the loss of a significant source of income for the Kawal sea nomad fishing community. This explanation shows that the fundamental needs of the Kawal sea nomads, who depend on the sea for their daily livelihood, are being disrupted by the existence of this national strategic project. It is an example of a national strategic project that aims to develop an industrial area but fails to consider the existence of the coastal fishing community. Thus, the threat of income loss for the coastal fishing community of Kawal is caused by the eviction carried out by PT BAI in developing the industrial area.

The threat of loss of daily income for the Kawal sea nomad fishermen due to eviction by PT Bintan Alumina Indonesia is evident in the decreasing mangrove forest, which has been cleared, causing species like mangrove crabs to move elsewhere, even though they are part of their catch alongside fish. It indicates that the national strategic project of PT BAI is disrupting the existence or livelihood of the Kawal sea nomads and threatening their daily income. This statement is reinforced by a sea nomad informant named Jembol who resides in Kawal. Here is his statement:

"The mangrove forests are dwindling. The mud crabs that used to nest in the mangrove roots now flee to the coral reefs. This change is making things difficult for us," [Jembol~ (siej.or.id, 2025), March 1].

Therefore, deforestation's depletion of mangrove forests threatens the coastal fishing community in Kawal due to displacement from the national strategic project of PT Bintan Alumina Indonesia.

Additionally, the threat of losing income from marine resources stems from PT BAI developing an industrial zone without consulting the coastal fishing community in Kawal. This is why the national strategic project [PSN] carried out by PT BAI has disregarded the existence of the coastal fishing community in Kawal. As a result, the eviction under the pretext of industrial zone development has left the fishermen unable to

sustain their livelihoods, dependent on the sea. This statement is reinforced by an informant from the fishing community named Jembol. Here is his account:

“My heart aches to see this.” Jembol’s voice grew weak. “They did all this without consulting us, as if there were no opportunity for us to preserve the environment that has sustained us all this time,” Jembol clenched his fists—angry, furious. The sea and land where they stand seem to be calculated in numbers they do not understand.” [Jembol~ (siej.or.id, 2025, March 1)]

Thus, the threat of income loss for the Kawal sea nomad fishermen stems from the lack of communication from the company conducting the eviction for the industrial zone with the sea nomad fishing community that has sustained them.

Furthermore, the threat faced by the Kawal sea nomad fishermen due to the eviction by BAI is evident in the loss of nipah trees used for the fishermen’s needs. This reinforces the argument that the eviction carried out by PT BAI, which is implementing a national strategic project, disregards the existing tree environment in the community, as stated by one of the Kawal sea nomad fishermen who served as an informant for this research. The informant, Jembol, is a sea nomadic fisherman in Kawal. Here is his statement:

“If it’s already destroyed like this, this might be the last nipah leaf we can enjoy,” said Jembol, looking at the dry nipah leaf in his hand, a gift from Grandmother Kancil.

[Jembol~ (siej.or.id, 2025, March 1)].

Therefore, the eviction carried out by BAI without considering the environment, such as the nipa trees commonly used by the sea nomads, severely threatens the livelihood of the sea nomad fishermen.

The threat of income loss for the Kawal sea nomad fishermen due to the eviction carried out by PT. BAI is significant for industrial area development. The Kawal sea nomad community feels at least three general impacts: 1) The sea nomad fishermen lose their daily income to meet their basic needs due to the eviction by the company, 2) The company does not recognize the existence of the sea nomads, or is ignored and disregarded, 3) and this has a significant long-term impact on the income of the sea nomads in Kawal.

Evidence 2. Threat of loss of ancestral graves of the Kawal Sea Nomad community due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial development.

The threat of losing the ancestral graves of the Kawal Sea Nomad community due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia's industrial area development is demonstrated by conflict or tension between the company and the sea nomad fishing community, who remain connected to the ancestral graves that hold spiritual significance. It reinforces the explanation of PT's national development project [PSN]. BAI is indifferent or unconcerned about the existence of indigenous communities, especially the Sea Nomad community, who still maintain their ancestral graves. In other words, the development process does not protect the customary rights of the Kawal Sea Nomads. This reflects the social inequality between large corporations and the protection of indigenous communities' property rights, such as ancestral graves. This is an example of how national-scale projects in the region, aimed at industrial development, remain discriminatory toward the existence of indigenous communities, particularly the sea nomads. Thus, the threat of losing the ancestral graves of the sea nomad fishermen in Kawal is evident in the evictions carried out by PT BAI for industrial development, which has become a contentious issue.

The threat of losing the ancestral graves of the Kawal sea nomad community is shown by the eviction carried out by PT. BAI is against the graves without any explanation to the sea nomad fishermen. This reinforces the explanation that the company carrying out the eviction for industrial development has not provided information or consulted with the Kawal sea nomad fishing community. Why are the ancestral graves being evicted without the consent of the indigenous community? As stated by a sea nomad fisherman residing in Kawal village:

“I must speak out louder. Before the sea, before the houses, before our ancestral graves are completely gone. PT BAI and the government must not remain silent; we need a clear explanation.”

Therefore, the threat of losing the ancestral graves of the coastal fishing community in Kawal due to the development process by PT BAI has not been explained.

Furthermore, the loss of the ancestral graves of the Kawal sea nomad community is not merely about burial sites but also about ancestral traces of a long history. This explanation highlights how crucial ancestral graves are for the sea nomad community, as they are connected to sacred spaces and the long history of their ancestors' journeys. When these graves are demolished by companies seeking to develop industries, the coastal fishing community loses its ancestral heritage. This aligns with a statement from a member of the seaside fishing community named Wengky:

"Graves are not merely final resting places for the coastal fishing community. They are sacred spaces connecting them to their ancestors, the sea, and the long history of their journey. When their ancestral graves are displaced, they lose more than just land. They will lose their own traces."

Thus, ancestral graves are not merely burial sites for the coastal fishing communities. They are sacred spaces and traces of their ancestors' long journey. Therefore, when displaced, they lose their traces.

With the threat of losing the ancestral graves of the Kawal Sea Nomad Community due to demolition by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial development, at least three general impacts are felt by the Kawal Sea Nomad Community: 1) The Sea Nomad fishing community will lose the graves of their ancestors, which they reverence as a spiritual belief, 2) The loss of sacred space that connects the Kawal Sea Nomad community with their ancestors and their journey, 3) And in the long term, it will significantly impact the loss of the history of the Kawal Sea Nomad community, as the graves of their ancestors are being demolished and their traces are being lost.

Evidence of the threat of loss of homes for the Kawal Sea Nomad community due to eviction by PT Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial area development



Source Photo: Pandu Wiyogo

Source: [x.com, 2022, Agustus 9]

The threat of losing homes for the Kawal Sea Nomad community due to PT BAI eviction for industrial area development is evident in the tension between development and the rights of the Sea Nomad community. Especially the threat of loss of homes for the Kawal Sea Nomad community due to eviction by the company for a national strategic project. This reinforces the explanation that the development process disregards the existence of the sea nomad fishermen, potentially leading to the eviction of their homes. This serves as an example of a company failing to accommodate the long-standing presence of the sea nomad community in the Bintan region, particularly the sea nomad fishermen in the Kawal area. Therefore, the threat of losing the homes of the Kawal sea nomads is due to evictions carried out by BAI for industrial area development.

The threat of losing the homes of the sea nomad fishermen in Kawal is evident from the consequences of the eviction by the company, and the community has already heard information that the homes around the company will be relocated. This means that the impact of the eviction by the company implementing the national strategic project includes the loss of income for the sea nomad community, the loss of their ancestral graves, and the loss of their homes. This is reinforced by the statement of one of the Kawal sea nomad fishermen. Here is his account:

“The information that our homes will be evicted has spread widely. We don’t know where we will be relocated to.”

Thus, the community has heard the threat of losing their homes due to eviction, and they have resigned themselves to being relocated anywhere.

The loss of the Kawal sea tribe’s homes due to eviction by a company that will develop an industrial area is a result of the sea tribe fishermen’s marginalized existence in their settled lives. This means that the sea tribe fishermen do not have access to marine resources and are constantly on the move, especially with the eviction carried out by this company. As stated by an informant named Wengki, here is his statement:

“Throughout history, various Sea Nomad groups have experienced various forms of marginalization. They have been forced to settle, lost access to marine resources, and now face the threat of eviction.”

Therefore, the threat of losing the homes of the Sea Nomad fishermen is caused by the marginalization of the Sea Nomads wherever they are, due to the lack of access to marine resources. Moreover, the company is evicting them for developing an industrial area as part of this national strategic project.

With the threat of the loss of the homes of the Kawal Sea Nomad community due to eviction by PT. Bintan Alumina Indonesia for industrial area development, at least three general consequences are felt by the Kawal Sea Nomad community: 1) Sea Nomad fishermen will relocate, as their previous location has limited access to marine resources due to eviction, 2) Loss of homes for the Sea Nomads will continue to occur, as there is no legal ownership of land by individual Sea Nomads, 3) and in the long term, the social reality of Sea Nomad fishermen will be to live a nomadic or migratory lifestyle.

Discussion

The loss of income for the Kawal sea tribe fishermen due to eviction by PT. BAI is evident in the loss of income sources for the sea tribe community. This income source is crucial for the survival of the sea nomad fishermen, who rely on fishing and crab catching for their daily livelihood. This is further supported by research findings from (Rai, 2024), which examines the impacts of forced relocation of indigenous fishing communities in the Riau Islands due to industrial development. There are significant implications for losing income sources and cultural shifts among fishermen. Additionally, the displacement has negatively impacted small-scale fishing communities, such as the coastal communities, due to reduced access to marine-based livelihoods (Andrews et al., 2021). Thus, the loss of income sources for the coastal fishing communities directly results from industrial development.

Due to the national strategic project, the trend of income loss and reduced access to marine-based livelihoods is caused by the destruction of marine ecosystems and habitats. This reinforces the explanation that the national strategic project (PSN), justified as industrial area development, has proven problematic for the sea nomad fishing community in Kawal. This is reinforced by a report from (Kompas.com, 2024), stating that, in the context of PSN, infrastructure development such as ports and transportation systems can impact fishing activities and the livelihoods of fishermen. While providing significant impetus for the nation’s maritime development, some PSN projects also potentially harm coastal communities. Therefore, the loss of income for the coastal fishing community and damage to the marine ecosystem are attributed to the industrial development of PT BAI.

The threat of losing ancestral graves due to eviction by the company has caused unrest and is seen as a form of cultural identity erasure. This explains why ancestral graves hold high spiritual and cultural value for the local coastal fishing community. This aligns with a report (Ekuatorial, 2025) revealing that the industrial zone development by PT BAI has led to the eviction of ancestral graves of the indigenous coastal fishing community in Kawal Laut, Bintan, causing unrest among the local coastal fishing community. Thus, the threat of losing ancestral graves for the coastal fishing communities implies unrest and cultural identity issues.

The tendency for the loss of ancestral graves of coastal fishing communities in Kawal is due to the lack of consideration for the protection of the culture and identity of the local community in the implementation of the project. The lack of respect for the rights of indigenous communities, including cultural sites such as ancestral graves. This indicates that the implementation of the national strategic project is irresponsible and unresponsive to the importance of indigenous peoples' lands, including their ancestral graves. This is reinforced by research from Evendi (2024), which states that the development of Rempang Eco City as part of the PSN ignores the existence of ancestral graves and lands of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, PSN projects often fail to consider the rights of indigenous communities, including their rights to land and cultural sites such as ancestral graves [komnasham.go.id, 2024, April 12]. Therefore, the tendency for the loss of ancestral graves from indigenous fishing communities is caused by national strategic projects such as PT BAI, which lacks consideration for the protection of local cultural identity and the rights of indigenous communities, including cultural sites such as ancestral graves (Suyito & Ghani, 2021).

The threat of losing the homes of the coastal indigenous fishing communities due to evictions carried out by PT BAI implies discrimination and marginalization of the coastal indigenous fishing communities and the sacrifice of their homes for the mega project. This reinforces the explanation that, in addition to the displacement of the sea nomad fishing community from the mega-project, the beneficiaries of the national strategic project are not the sea nomad fishing community, as their homes have been demolished. This is exemplified by a study on a mega-project where the community does not benefit. This research was conducted by Nadila (2024) and describes the consequences of the neglect of the rights of indigenous peoples, resulting in evictions and relocations due to the mega project. Thus, the implications of the loss of the homes of sea nomad fishermen are demonstrated by the discrimination and marginalization of the rights of indigenous peoples, resulting in their relocation.

The tendency or cause of the threat of loss of the homes of the sea nomads in Kawal due to eviction for the national strategic project [PSN] of PT BAI is demonstrated by the suspension of the draft law [RUU] on indigenous peoples, which has been stalled for some time, which would recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. Therefore, the mega project must be able to provide benefits, not sacrifice the indigenous community. This reinforces the explanation that without regulations that favor the rights of indigenous communities, such as the Indigenous Peoples Act, indigenous communities everywhere, such as the sea tribe in Kawal, will continue to experience discrimination due to the mega project. This is reinforced by [jaringnusa.id, 2025, February 19] AMAN Advocacy Director Arman Moehammad, who emphasized that the Indigenous Peoples Bill was designed to improve relations between indigenous peoples and the state, which have so far mostly resulted in conflict, especially regarding land disputes and the exploitation of natural resources. Therefore, clear regulations such as the Indigenous Peoples Bill becoming law will certainly protect all the interests of the community, including the existence of the sea nomads, especially their homes.

Understanding the Narrative of the Threat of National Strategic Projects (PSN) on the Kawal Sea Tribe Community in Bintan Regency with a Social Exclusion Approach.

Rene Lenoir used the theory of social exclusion in the 1970s, who imagined the marginalization experienced by some communities from the mainstream of French social life (Syahra, 2010). The concept of social exclusion has a broader scope and range. Therefore, each person residing in any country defines it differently. However, according to Todman in (Syahra, 2010), the concept of social exclusion can be summarized in a society divided into two groups, as indicated by the group whose reference is the control of resources. The first group consists of those who have or control access to and opportunities to control important resources such as economic, political, cultural, and other aspects related to basic human needs. Meanwhile, the second group includes various parties who do not have access to these resources because they have been monopolized or restricted by the first group. Using the social exclusion approach to analyze the threats posed by the National Strategic Project (PSN) to the Kawal Sea Nomad Community in Bintan District shows that PT BAI is a structured group and the actor that controls the industrial area.

Meanwhile, the coastal fishing community is part of the group that lacks access to these resources. This results in social exclusion of the seaside fishing community in economic, cultural, and alienation contexts. Economically, social exclusion is evident in the threat of eviction by the national strategic project for industrial area development, endangering the community's daily income, which is their primary source of livelihood. In the cultural context, social exclusion is demonstrated by the threat of losing the ancestral graves of the sea tribe community, which are part of their identity and hereditary heritage. Then, in the context of the sea tribe community's living space, social exclusion is also demonstrated by the threat of eviction from their homes.

Conclusion

It turns out that the national strategic project (PSN) in the area is not a solution but a problem for the sea nomad fishing community. This strongly reinforces the argument that the existence of the national strategic project, which is justified as industrial development, poses a threat to the sea nomad fishing community in Kawal, Bintan Regency. This proves that the central government's policy on national strategic projects does not protect the rights of the sea nomad fishing community. Instead, it eliminates their income sources, destroys ancestral graves, and displaces their homes due to evictions justified by industrial zone development by PT BAI.

The government program, referred to as the national strategic project [PSN], marginalizes the existence of the sea nomad fishing community in Kawal. This is a reason why the marginalization of the community by the national strategic project has become an urgent obstacle faced by a government that does not respect the rights of the sea nomad community. This is an example of a government policy program that only prioritizes investment in national strategic projects, but displaces fishing communities. Thus, instead of solving problems, it adds to the issues in the region. Therefore, national strategic projects [PSN] marginalize the existence of the sea nomad fishing community.

The limitations of this research are indicated by the need to view it from a different perspective. This adds to the in-depth understanding of national strategic projects in the region. The national strategic project [PSN] in the Kawal region is problematic for the fishing community, but from another perspective, its existence could be beneficial in reducing unemployment in the area. Therefore, it needs to be studied in depth. Thus, the limitations of this research serve as a foundation for further research from different perspectives.

How to cite:

Suyito, S. (2025). The Impact of Strategic National Project on the Sea Tribe Community: A Case of Special Economic Zone of Galang Batang, Bintan. *Policy and Social Review*, 5(1), pp. 1-11.

Reference

- Adrian, K., Winarno, W., & Hartanto, R. V. P. (2021). Analisis Dampak Aktivitas Proyek Tambang Timah Di Perairan Laut Pulau Bangka Terhadap Hak Atas Pekerjaan Nelayan Traditional: Perspektif Inclusive Citizenship. *Jurnal Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan*, 11(2), 76–84. <https://doi.org/10.20527/Kewarganegaraan.V11I2.12253>
- Agussalim, M. S., Ariana, & Saleh, R. (2023). Kerusakan Lingkungan Akibat Pertambangan Nikel Di Kabupaten Kolaka Melalui Pendekatan Politik Lingkungan. *Palita: Journal Of Social Religion Research*, 8(1), 37–48. <https://doi.org/10.24256/PAL.V8I1.3610>
- Anggriani, D., Yudiantmaja, W. E., & Firman, F. (2024). Use Intention of Marketing-Based Android Application among Small and Medium Enterprises in Indonesia. *Policy and Social Review*, 4(1), 11–24. Retrieved from <https://journal.inspire-kepri.org/index.php/PSR/article/view/117>

- Andrews, N., Bennett, N. J., Le Billon, P., Green, S. J., Cisneros-Montemayor, A. M., Amongin, S., Gray, N. J., & Sumaila, U. R. (2021). Oil, Fisheries And Coastal Communities: A Review Of Impacts On The Environment, Livelihoods, Space And Governance. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 75, 102009. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.102009>
- Anshari, M., & Permata, C. (2024). Deforestasi Hutan Lindung Dalam Proyek Strategis Nasional Food Estate: Perspektif Maqashid Syariah. *Al Qalam: Jurnal Ilmiah Keagamaan Dan Kemasyarakatan*, 18(3), 2031–2047. <https://doi.org/10.35931/AQ.V18I3.3499>
- Asadurrohman, M. (2024). Konflik Agraria Masyarakat Adat Melayu Tua dalam Pembangunan Eco City di Pulau. *Brawijaya Journal of Social Science*, 4(1), 46–62
- Ayuningmas, F., Alfian, A., & Ramadani, N. A. (2023). Resistensi Berbasis Adat: Perlawanan Masyarakat Pulau Rempang, Kota Batam, Kepulauan Riau, Terhadap Rencana Pembangunan Rempang Eco City. *Jurnal Inovasi Penelitian*, 4(6), 1035–1042. <https://doi.org/10.47492/JIP.V4I6.2838>
- Baringbing, M. S. (2021). Problematika Lingkungan Terhadap Regulasi Food Estate Sebagai Program Strategis Nasional di Desa Gunung Mas & Pulang Pisau Kalimantan Tengah. *Seminar Nasional Hukum Universitas Negeri Semarang*, 7(1), 353–366.
- Ekuatorial. (2025, March 18). *Nestapa Suku Laut Kawal Laut, Terancam PSN Di Pesisir Bintan*. Ekuatorial.Com. <https://www.ekuatorial.com/2025/03/Nestapa-Suku-Laut-Kawal-Laut-Terancam-Psn-Di-Pesisir-Bintan/>
- Evendi, R. H. (2024). Rempang Eco City: Hak Asasi Manusia Dan Ego Pemerintah. *UNES Law Review*, 6(4), 10944–10954. <https://doi.org/10.31933/UNESREV.V6I4.1993>
- Fatmawati, L. (2024). Peran Investasi Terhadap Kebijakan Proyek Strategis Nasional: *Indonesian Research Journal On Education*, 4(4), 1945–1952–1945 – 1952. <https://doi.org/10.31004/IRJE.V4I4.1439>
- Kompas.Com. (2024). *Dampak PSN Terhadap Masyarakat Pesisir: Perspektif Maritim*. <https://money.kompas.com/read/2024/02/19/153150726/Dampak-Psn-Terhadap-Masyarakat-Pesisir-Perspektif-Maritim?Page=All&Utm>
- MAULANA, Aditia, et al. (2024). Sengketa Tanah Masyarakat Adat Rempang dalam Pembangunan Rempang Eco City Dalam Perspektif Solusi Dan Tinjauan Hukum Agraria. *Jurnal Prisma Hukum*, 8(12), 40–56.
- Mukarromah, A., & Mulyawati, T. (2023). *Demokrasi Lingkungan Hidup Masyarakat Pulau Kodingareng: Konflik Penambangan Pasir Laut Dan Masyarakat Nelayan Di Sulawesi Selatan*. 5(2).
- Nadila, R. (2024). *Displacement And Gentrification In Borneo – The Political Ecology Of Indonesia's New Capital City*. <https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:uu:diva-536044>
- Napitupulu, A. K., Maysaroh, N. S., Masduqi, F. H., Zahra, A. N., Fahreni, A., & Makfi, M. (2022). Pencegahan Kerusakan Ekosistem Laut di Sekitar Pmbangkit Listrik Tenaga Uap (PLTU) Batang dalam Perspektif Fikih Lingkungan. *At-Thullab: Jurnal Mahasiswa Studi Islam*, 4(1), 909–925. <https://doi.org/10.20885/TULLAB.VOL4.ISS1.ART7>
- Puspita, N. D., Gaib, W. A. I., Zahra, Z. H., E., M. D. F. D., & Asadurrohman, M. (2024). Konflik Agraria Masyarakat Adat Melayu Tua Dalam Pembangunan Eco City Di Pulau Rempang, Batam. *Brawijaya Journal Of Social Science*, 4(1), 46–62. <https://doi.org/10.21776/UB.BJSS.2024.004.01.4>
- Rai, P. I. (2024). *Dinamika Konflik Relokasi Pulau Rempang Galang Kota Batam*. http://repo.apmd.ac.id/3212/1/PRIMUS%20INTERPARES%20RAI_19520026.pdf
- Sari, A. C. F. (2024). Proyek Strategis Nasional Bernama Food Estate: Ancaman Otonomi Petani Dan Keragaman Sumber Pangan Lokal Di Desa Umbu Mamijuk, Sumba Tengah. *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, 6(3), 352–375. <https://doi.org/10.14710/JPHI.V6I3.352-375>
- Septian, R. (2023). Masalah Pengadaan Tanah Untuk Proyek Strategis Nasional (PSN). *Prosiding Seminar Hukum Aktual Fakultas Hukum Universitas Islam Indonesia*, 117–122. <https://journal.uin.ac.id/psha/article/view/30964>

- Siej.Or.Id. (2025). *Nestapa Suku Laut Kawal Laut, Terancam PSN Di Pesisir Bintan | SIEJ - Masyarakat Jurnalis Lingkungan Indonesia*. <https://Www.Siej.Or.Id/Index.Php/Id/Ekuatorial/Nestapa-Suku-Laut-Kawal-Laut-Terancam-Psn-Di-Pesisir-Bintan>
- Suyito, S., & Ghani, N. A. (2021). The Patern of People Participaton of Island Society of Dendun Village, Bintan Regency. *Policy and Social Review*, 1(1), 1–6. Retrieved from <https://journal.inspire-kepri.org/index.php/PSR/article/view/17>
- Syakra, R. (2010). Eksklusi Sosial: Perspektif Baru Untuk Memahami Deprivasi dan Kemiskinan . *Jurnal Masyarakat dan Budaya*. <https://Ejournal.Brin.Go.Id/Jmb/Article/View/8900>
- Wardana, A., & Darmawardana, D. A. (2024). Pembangunan Sebagai Proses Eksklusi: Kajian Hukum dan Ekonomi-Politik Atas Proyek Strategis Nasional. *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan*, 54(2), 259–288. <https://doi.org/10.21143/jhp.vol54.no2.1580>
- Yoserizal, Y., & Samnuzulsari, T. (2022). Implementasi Kurikulum 2013: Bagaimana Kapasitas Multi-Aktor?. *Policy and Social Review*, 2(1), 1–10. Retrieved from <https://journal.inspire-kepri.org/index.php/PSR/article/view/80>