

## **Analysis of the Land Dispute Between the Residents of Banjar Sari Village and Pt Bumi Gema Gempita in East Merapi District, Lahat Regency**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research is motivated by the land dispute between the people of Banjar Sari Village and PT Bumi Gema Gempita which has been going on since 2006 and until now has not been resolved fairly. This conflict is rooted in the difference in claims between the community that controls the land for generations and the company which bases its activities on the formal legality of the 2010 Mining Business Permit (IUP). This study aims to analyze the causes and dynamics of land disputes using an environmental political perspective. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive approach with data collection techniques through interviews, observations, and documentation. The results of the study show that land disputes are influenced by three main factors, namely inconsistencies between AMDAL data and the determination of IUP (science factors), the dominance of the company's economic interests in land that has mining value (economic factors), and the weak application of the principles of justice, transparency, and social responsibility (value and ethical factors). In addition, this conflict also has significant social impacts on society, such as the emergence of a sense of injustice, a decrease in the level of trust in the government and the legal system, and the disruption of social relations in the community. Thus, it can be concluded that this land dispute reflects the inequality of power relations in the management of agrarian resources, so that its resolution is not enough only through a formal legal approach, but also requires an approach that considers social justice and recognition of the rights of local communities.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In the agrarian field, land covers all dimensions of life such as environmental, social, cultural, economic, and political so that it has an important meaning in human life. Land is an asset and living space that occupies a special position in society. The important role of land in human life is as a place to depend on life, a place to erect buildings, open plantations, cultivate, and other activities. The land is also the place of return of humans as it was originally created by humans. With its urgency, land is a very vulnerable object to causing many disputes so that it is not uncommon to find land disputes.

Soil is the outermost layer of the earth's crust which plays a very big role in the survival of living things, especially for humans. Humans use land for various things, for example: (1) it is used as a basis for the construction of a residence or settlement; (2) functions to carry out business activities; (3) it can be used as a place to carry out livelihoods, for example for farmers, (4) it can be used as a tool for loan guarantees; (5) can be useful in the future, (6) and other functions. (Anggita, 2024)

Land conflict is a form of conflict that often occurs in Indonesia (Wirawan et al., 2021). Land conflicts in South Sumatra are influenced by land status to the influence of corporations (companies) in decision-making. The emergence of land conflicts is caused by the unfair land management scheme between corporations and residents. South Sumatra Province is one of the areas that is prone to land conflicts.

Similar conflicts also occurred in Lahat Regency, East Merapi District, Banjarsari Village, especially related to land disputes between Coal Mining Companies and the surrounding community (Qibtiyah, 2017). Land conflicts cannot be separated from the larger problem, namely granting concession permits to companies without clear concession limits, and without any prior explanation to the community in an honest, fair and

transparent manner (Ridwan & Sudrajat, 2020).

A 600-hectare land dispute in Banjarsari Village, East Merapi District, Lahat Patent Regency, between residents and PT BGG has not been resolved since 16 years ago and has impacted around 300 residents. The Head of Banjarsari Village, Aldiansyah, conveyed to Commission IV of the South Sumatra DPRD that even though the village had received compensation from PTBA in 1995, PT BGG still carried out land acquisition in 2009 even though the village had been removed from the IUP in 2010, by claiming land belonging to residents, the majority of which was in the form of gardens and rice fields. Residents showed evidence of land ownership, criticized the company's reclamation that damaged the environment, and demanded compensation because the land could no longer be cultivated.

The occurrence of this land conflict is a fight over a land right that has been controlled by another party. The land conflict problem has resulted in the residents of Banjarsari village demanding clarity on the status of their land that has been mined by PT BGG. Judging from the status of the land based on legal facts, the land owned by PT BGG is administratively recorded as being in Muara Lawai Village, in accordance with the Production Operation Mining Business License (IUP OP) issued by the Regent of Lahat. The IUP area includes Prabu Menang Village, Tanjung Jambu, and Gedung Agung, without including Banjarsari Village in the scope of the permit.

The type of land ownership claimed by the landowner is in the form of a private ownership land deed. The head of Banjar Sari village revealed that his village area was not included in the Mining Business Permit (IUP) of PT Bumi Gema Gempita. Therefore, conflicts arise between residents and coal mining companies. The first party (residents) admitted that the land owned for personal and company rights was not recorded in the company's business license that the land in Banjarsari village was company's land, while the second party (Bumi Gema Gempita Company) the land had been used for coal mining activities for a long time and there was an element of land rights to support the company's mobility.

The company PT. Bumi Gema Gempita which explores mining in Banjar Sari village has had a significant impact on the people of Banjarsari, for example, land damage. In addition, the existence of coal mines also poses other problems for farming communities who still have land around the mine site. Although access to their plantations has become easier, coal mining activities have resulted in land pollution. Land pollution felt by farmers occurs due to coal waste. When the rainy season arrives, a lot of coal liquid waste pollutes the land in the form of mud. Meanwhile, when the dry season arrives, a lot of solid coal waste pollutes the land in the form of dust. This is what causes crop failure, infertile plantation soil and also dust pollution. Of course, this is very detrimental to the farming community who still have land around the mine location.

This land provides direct involvement to the surrounding community because until now there has been no agreed settlement and the people of Banjarsari village are actively involved in land conservation by carrying out conservation actions and protests against companies that cultivate the land. In the current condition, the community has officially mediated on June 11, 2025, with the presence of several local government parties, deputy regents, related agencies, cadres, and residents, but until now there has been no definite clarity regarding this issue.

Political science analysis can involve understanding the decision-making process, power dynamics at the local level, and the involvement of political actors in determining land ownership. In addition, this research can explore the impact of political decisions on citizen participation in village development and resource management. Coal mining land disputes are directly related to environmental issues and the use of coal mining land reflect conflicts related to environmental impacts, and community rights. The researcher writes in order to know information about what problems will be researched. The researcher made it based on an explanation in the background of the problem.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research will use a qualitative descriptive method. The qualitative descriptive method is a method that describes, describes, and explains what the occurrence of the object being studied is based on the situation and conditions when the research is carried out.

The qualitative descriptive research method is an approach used to understand a phenomenon by describing the characteristics, properties, and qualities of the phenomenon. This approach does not aim to measure or test hypotheses, but rather to provide an in-depth and comprehensive picture of the phenomenon being studied. In research on the resolution of agrarian conflicts, qualitative descriptive methods are very relevant because they allow researchers to explore the views, attitudes, and perceptions of various parties involved in the conflict.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Land Dispute Between Residents of Banjar Sari Village and the Mining Company PT Bumi Gema Gempita.**

Judging from these results chronologically, in the early stages of preparing the EIA, Banjar Sari Village was included as an affected area and was involved with other villages such as Muara Lawai, Prabu

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Menang, Sirapulau, and Telatang. Meanwhile, villages that are not included in the initial coverage include Gedung Agung and Tanjung Jambu. However, in its development, Banjar Sari Village was not included in the IUP area of PT Bumi Gema Gempita. This creates uncertainty about the status of land and is one of the main triggers for conflict.

From the side of PT Bumi Gema Gempita, the management and elaboration of the disputed land is based on the applicable law, namely the 2010 Decree which stipulates the area of the Mining Business Permit (IUP). In the document, the areas allowed for the company to operate only officially mention four villages as part of the permit area, thus becoming the main basis for the company to carry out mining activities.

Based on this, the company considers that the land management method carried out meets the applicable legal rules and is within the legal limits. In other words, the company follows the principle of administrative legality, which is that all activities carried out are based on official documents issued by the government as the institution authorized to grant permits.

The analysis of land disputes can be studied using environmental political theory according to Verdinand Robertua Siahaan (2020) which emphasizes three main factors, namely science, economics, and values and ethics.

### **Knowledge**

In the framework of environmental politics, this condition indicates a knowledge inequality where knowledge recognized by the state and corporations is more important than the knowledge of the community. As a result, policies often cause disruption and do not reflect the social realities on the ground. These impacts show that agrarian conflicts have complex implications, not only on material aspects, but also on social and psychological aspects of society. This confirms that land disputes have had a significant impact on the lives of the people of Banjar Sari Village as a whole.

### **Economy**

Land is not only a source of livelihood, but also has social and cultural value. When the land is evicted without compensation from private companies, the community suffers losses that are not only material, but also social. When compared to the previous case, where PT Bukit Asam compensated around 70% of the residents in the period 1995-1997, there is a difference in approach in conflict management. This strengthens the public's perception that there is an injustice in the distribution of economic benefits.

From an environmental political perspective, this condition reflects the inequality of economic power relations, where companies as actors with large capital have a stronger bargaining position than the local community. As a result, the resulting policies tend to favor the economic interests of the company more than the welfare of the community.

### **Ethics and Values**

The people of Banjarsari Village feel that their rights to land are not properly recognized, even though historically they have controlled and used the land for generations. In environmental political theory, justice is not only interpreted as procedural justice (legal process), but also substantive justice, which is the end result that really provides benefits and protection to society. In. Although communities have taken the legal route, the results that have not been in their favor show that substantive justice has not been achieved.

In Verdinand Robertua Siahaan's (2020) theory, these conditions reflect the existence of a crisis of Ethics and Values in environmental politics, where decisions taken are dominated by economic interests and power rather than the principles of justice and sustainability. When ethics and values are not the main basis in policy making, conflicts tend not only to arise, but also to last in the long term, as happened in Banjar Sari Village. The weak application of ethics and values also has an impact on the decline of public trust in government institutions and the legal system. When people feel that their rights are not recognized and justice is not upheld, there will be skepticism and dissatisfaction that can prolong conflicts.

## **The Impact of Land Disputes on the Residents of Banjarsari Village**

### **Economic Impact**

The people of Banjar Sari Village have experienced a direct impact from this conflict, especially in terms of finances. The reduction in community welfare and reduced economic opportunities for the next generation is caused by the loss of access to land that has been a source of income. In addition, discussions about the status of land hinder communities from producing more. From the point of view of environmental politics, this impact shows that agrarian conflicts affect people's lives broadly and sustainably. It also answers the question of the impact of conflict, the second problem. This emphasizes that the provision of land will have an impact on the economic sustainability of the community and not just ownership.

In the long term, this condition can lead to changes in the economic structure of society, where people who were previously independent become increasingly dependent on outsiders. This shows that the economic impact of land disputes is not only temporary, but also has the potential to create sustainable inequality.

### Social Impact

Long-lasting conflicts also disrupt the overall social stability of the community. Social pressures caused by the government that continue to affect the quality of people's lives, such as a decrease in the intensity of social interaction and a weakening of harmonious social functions in the community. According to Siahaan (2020), this situation shows that natural resource conflicts have many effects that can disrupt social balance in the long run.

This inequality is seen not only in land tenure but also in the capacity to influence decision-making and policy processes. This condition shows how social marginalization can occur in local communities due to the openness of power structures in environmental political theory. Therefore, both from the point of view of analysis and its consequences, land damage in Banjarsari Village shows a structural problem in the management of agrarian resources that requires a more fair and inclusive solution.

In a broader perspective, the social impact of these land disputes shows the inequality of power relations between communities and more dominant actors, such as corporations and the government. This inequality is not only reflected in land tenure, but also in the ability to influence policies and decision-making processes. As a result, society is at a disadvantage and vulnerable to social marginalization.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research on the Analysis of Land Disputes between the Residents of Banjar Sari Village and PT Bumi Gema Gempita in East Merapi District, Lahat Regency, it can be concluded that the land disputes that occurred were complex and prolonged agrarian conflicts, which were not only caused by differences in land ownership claims, but also influenced by inequality in legal, economic, and economic aspects. as well as values and ethics.

From the formal legal side, the company carries out activities based on the Decree (SK) of the Mining Business License (IUP) in 2010 which only lists a few villages as official areas. However, factually the people of Banjar Sari Village have controlled and used the land for generations. The incompatibility between formal legal claims and the historical claims of society is the main root of the conflict.

In the perspective of environmental politics, according to Verdinand Robertua Siahaan (2020), this conflict is influenced by three main factors. First, the scientific factor shows that there is an inconsistency in the use of data, especially between the results of the EIA and the determination of IUP areas, as well as the lack of recognition of local knowledge of the community. Second, economic factors show the dominance of corporate interests in controlling natural resources, which results in economic losses for the community due to land loss without compensation. Third, value and ethical factors show that the principles of justice, transparency, and social responsibility in land management have not been fulfilled.

In addition, this land dispute also has a significant impact on the people of Banjar Sari Village, especially in social aspects, such as the emergence of a sense of injustice, a decrease in trust in the government and the legal system, and a disruption of the social cohesion of the community. Completion efforts

Conflicts that have been carried out through various channels, ranging from complaints to the central government, state institutions, to court processes, have not been able to produce a fair and comprehensive solution.

Thus, this land dispute reflects the inequality of power relations in the management of agrarian resources, where formal economic and legal interests are more dominant than the protection of the rights of local communities. Therefore, conflict resolution requires an approach that is not only based on law, but also considers social, economic, and justice aspects.

### SUGGESTIONS

The Lahat Regency Government is expected to evaluate IUP policies, especially related to the clarity of territorial boundaries and recognition of the rights of local communities, as well as ensuring transparency and fairness in every decision-making process.

The company PT. Bumi Gema Gempita is expected to prioritize the principle of social responsibility by opening a more intensive dialogue space and providing fair solutions, including considering compensation to the affected communities.

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