

## Political Process For Preparation of Seated Island Regions As a Government of Sebatik City, 2006-2012

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### ABSTRACT

This paper looks at how the political dynamics that occurred in the Sebatik City expansion process in 2006-2012. The method of regional expansion can be understood as a political phenomenon involving long administrative and political processes. This paper focuses on looking at the political aspects so that it discusses the behavior of actors and how these actors articulate their interests. The research method used was descriptive qualitative. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through observation, structured interviews. For secondary data collection is done by documentation and library techniques.

The results showed that the political process is complicated because it involves many interests of political actors making the Sebatik City expansion not realized until now. Although the academic study was declared feasible and supported by the majority of Sebatik Island residents, the Regent and the Nunukan DPRD process of negotiation and compromise failed to materialize when it reached the DPR-RI level. This pause occurs due to differences in interests and failure of political incentives offered. The failure of a political process like this shows that behind the attitude of political actors, there are always specific interests that are championed.

**Keywords:** *division, interests, political proses, sebatik city, welfare*

### ABSTRAK

Tulisan ini melihat bagaimana dinamika politik yang terjadi dalam proses pemekaran Kota Sebatik tahun 2006-2012. Proses pemekaran wilayah dapat dipahami sebagai fenomena politik dengan melibatkan proses administratif dan proses politik yang panjang. Tulisan ini fokus melihat aspek politik sehingga membahas perilaku aktor dan bagaimana aktor tersebut mengartikulasikan kepentingannya. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data primer dilakukan melalui observasi, wawancara terstruktur. Untuk pengumpulan data sekunder dilakukan dengan teknik dokumentasi dan kepustakaan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa proses politik yang rumit sebab melibatkan banyak kepentingan aktor politik membuat pemekaran Kota Sebatik tidak terwujud sampai saat ini.

Meskipun secara kajian akademik dinyatakan layak dan didukung oleh mayoritas warga pulau Sebatik, Bupati dan DPRD Nunukan proses negosiasi dan kompromi gagal terwujud ketika sampai pada tingkat DPR-RI. Kebuntuan ini

terjadi akibat perbedaan kepentingan dan gagalnya insentif politik yang ditawarkan. Gagalnya proses politik seperti ini menunjukkan bahwa dibalik sikap aktor politik selalu ada kepentingan tertentu yang diperjuangkan.

**Kata Kunci:** *kepentingan, kota sebatik, pemekaran, proses politik*

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## INTRODUCTION

Regional autonomy today is assumed to change towards a better direction, especially in the administration of local government, which has the opportunity to regulate and manage its region to improve the welfare of its people. Indirectly it can be said that regional autonomy is part of governance reform and an integral part of democratic efforts. In other words, there is no reform without independence and no democracy without local autonomy ([Said 2005](#)).

We can understand together that the purpose of regional autonomy is to give authority to the regions to regulate and manage their parts to create a more democratic society. According to Jazuli Juwaini (Member of Commission II of the Republic of Indonesia DPR 2004-2009 period in charge of the domestic government sector, regional authorities, state apparatus, and agrarian), several factors can be used as guidelines so that territorial expansion can fulfill its vision and mission. Among them are Organizational Factors; Management Factors; and; Economic Factors. Sebatik Island is one of 92 Indonesia's first islands in northeastern Kalimantan. On the west side of Sebatik Island is Nunukan Island, the capital of Nunukan Regency, while on the north side is Tawau City, which is already in the State of Sabah.

Economically, the Sebalik Island people are very dependent on Malaysia, especially to the City of Tawau. Almost all bags produced by the community, such as fish, palm, and chocolate, are sold to Malaysia. The Sebatik people also buy various daily needs from Tawau, so it is not surprising if there are two currencies in circulation, namely the rupiah and the ringgit. But residents prefer ringgit because of its higher value. Geographically, Sebatik Island is closer to Tawau, which only takes 15 minutes, compared to Nunukan Island, which takes 1.5 hours with the same means of transportation at three times the cost.

Another reason is the problem of disparity between regions, between residents and between groups can be minimized. Thus areas that previously received less attention and touch from the development of the Central Government and the Provincial Government, through the strategy of regional expansion or the formation of the New Autonomous Region, are expected to grow and develop as quickly as possible.

The Sebatik Island division discourse blows since seven (7) years ago by Sebatik community leaders, the emergence of the Sebatik Island division discourse is caused by several factors:

1. The geographical location of the Sebatik island which is separated from the Nunukan district.
2. The management of regional potential is very minimal.
3. Ineffective community service.

#### 4. Severe road infrastructure.

Another thing that made community leaders motivated to fight in blossoming was that community life on Sebatik Island was highly dependent on the Tawau of Malaysia which could cause a depletion of nationalism and patriotism in the midst of the community (Interview Results with H. Herman as Chairman of the Community Development Division Team Sebatik (HMS) August 7, 2011). Later this community aspirations contained in the container team rides Redistricting Community Association Sebatik (HMS) as an institution that acts moving the administrative process and the nomination of regional divisions Sebatik Island into New Autonomous Region.

This paper looks at the political process of preparing the Sebatik Border Island as a new autonomous region. This study is essential considering the status of Sebatik Island, which is an outermost region so that a more efficient and effective government administration system is needed - one of the reasonable steps is through division. So far, the expansion studies have focused on formal legal, economic, and political analysis. Accurately, for the political aspect, the study of regional expansion had previously portrayed the political element, especially the tugging of political interests, negotiation strategies, compromises, and the interests of which actors benefited the most. The locus is usually in areas that are not geographically categorized as the outer islands. This study looks at a different locus that is the outermost region. A city that is very priority to be expanded for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness of government.

This study shows that the outermost regions should receive special attention and treatment so that relevant policymakers need to simplify the division process so that the desire to facilitate public services can be realized immediately. The long and winding political process shows that there is no shared common vision regarding the orientation of development in the periphery.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The study of regional expansion has always been linked to the process of local autonomy (decentralization). Decentralization is a consequence of democratization. The aim is to build good governance, starting from the grassroots of politics. According to the Cheema, Decentralization is "the principle of governance as opposed to centralization." Decentralization results in local government with the distribution of authority and the availability of adequate space to interpret the authority granted to lower government units (local government) (Haris 2005).

The practice of decentralization eventually resulted in the division of the region to become very massive in Indonesia. Until 2013 alone, more than 200 areas have been divided. In terms of academics, there have been many scientific studies focused on the process of regional expansion in Indonesia.

Reflecting on the case of the expansion process in the South Bone District in 2013 departed from the desire to improve the quality of public services and welfare for the community (Anwar 2014). This desire is so strong considering the poor quality of service in the Parent region (Bone Regency). Unlike in various other areas of expansion, the nuances of political interests and dominant power, in the process of expanding the South Bone region purely departs from the collective awareness of the community.

Over the past ten years, the burning of regions in Indonesia has tended to be uncontrolled and directed (Santoso 2012). This is due to the dominance of the political nuances that occur so that regional expansion is only a source of political elites. These political interests intervene in the process of division, for example, from areas that are not suitable to be feasible. Even if the domain is administratively and socially viable, it turns out to be inefficient and ineffective because often, the government bureaucracy formed is controlled and controlled by the political elite for economic interests. To resolve this, the government needs to make a grand design of regional planning (territorial reform) sourced from objective and interest-free scientific studies.

The negative impacts of the division process called (Aini 2012). By taking the title Ethnic Domestication: Regional Expansion and Routinization of Inter-Ethnic Violence in North Maluku, it found that the process of regional expansion became a new arena for the presence of specific ethnic / identity-based violence. Instead of uniting common interests in realizing local welfare by the promise of decentralization, a division gave birth to primordial -based conflicts.

Regional expansion is one form of local autonomy that needs to be considered because, with the increase of the region, it is hoped that it can further maximize the equitable distribution of regional development and regional development (Muqoyyidin 2013). In the spirit of local autonomy, the paradigm of territorial expansion has arisen, which can accelerate the implementation of development, facilitate public services to the community, and accelerate general welfare. In the current reform era, the space for regions to propose the formation of the New Autonomous Region is wide open by the policy of regional expansion based on Law No. 22 of 1999. With this policy, the system of territorial development is now more dominated by the political process than the technocratic process.

Entitled hidden power in the politics of division in East Nusa Tenggara, namely Pantar District, saw that economic orientation and political interests were the main motivations behind the division of regions in Indonesia (Beli 2016). Taking the case in East Nusa Tenggara found that there were hidden and crucial political forces in the politics of division in East Nusa Tenggara Province. Their strength is very dominant in the division process through issue campaigns. They come from groups of individuals who have a significant

interest in the division. The research also found that certain ethnic groups dominated the expansion committee.

This research is slightly different from previous studies, which indeed focuses on portraying the workings of the interests of political actors and evaluating the implementation of the results of the regional expansion. If past studies target the central regions, this study specifically looks at the outermost / periphery areas, which in the Jokowi's government plan have priority to be divided. This study looks at why actors of interest are so dynamic that the tugging continues so that, in turn, the process of Sebatik City expansion is hampered even though academic studies are worth mentioning.

## **METHODS**

This research uses descriptive qualitative to see the political process of the expansion of the Sebatik City area. Such an approach is considered representative to understand the phenomenon of the political process that is taking place. The advantages of qualitative descriptive models are because they can examine objectively and naturally on an event ([Sugiyono 2011](#)). The illustrative method means understanding a social phenomenon in detail that is not yet or is still little known ([Strauss and Corbin 2003](#)). The usefulness of qualitative methods lies in guiding more complex and in-depth details about a social phenomenon. The quality method is also appropriate for obtaining detailed descriptions and interpretations.

In this research, data collection techniques using observation, in-depth interviews (depth Interview), technical documentation. Interviews were conducted on the key actors, namely Sebatik Community Association, Ngatijan (Deputy Chairman of the Parliament Nunukan 2009-2014 ) of the Golkar faction, Nasir of Commission III of the DPRD Nunukan period 2009-2014 and Serpianus - head Section administration Nunukan district. Documentation obtained through reports analysis of data taken with three ways of reduction, display, and interpretation ([Salim 2006](#)).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. History of Nunukan Regency**

Nunukan Regency is one of the Regencies in East Kalimantan Province, which is located on the northern tip of the island of Kalimantan, which is directly adjacent to Malaysia, specifically the Serawak and the Sabah States. Nunukan Regency was formed based on Law Number 47 of 1999 concerning the formation of the West Kutai District, East Kutai, Bontang City, Malinau Regency, and Nunukan Regency. The establishment of the Nunukan Regency covers 5 Nunukan, Sebatik, Sembakung, Lumbis, and Krayan Districts, which are marked by the inauguration of Nunukan Regent Officials on October 12, 1999, Drs Bustaman Arham.

Sebatik is one of the islands bordering Malaysia. In the Master Plan for the Management of the State Border, Sebatik Island is one of the outermost islands, which is the main development priority because it borders directly with neighboring countries. From Nunukan City to cross to Sebatik Island, you can use an outboard motorboat, which takes 30-35 minutes. The trip to the Sebatik District, the Nyamuk River, can use a speed boat that takes 1.5 hours while traveling by land takes 3-4 hours due to poor road conditions. The condition of the Sebatik Island road is divided into 12 km of paved trail from Pancang Village to Tanjung Karang Village, 48 km of rocky road in Tanjung Karang Village, and Setabu Village and 47.7 km of dirt roads in all five villages.

## 2. Political Process of Sebatik Island Expansion

The legislative process, as a series of extraordinary in the formulation of policy and the decision of regional expansion, requires several vital provisions in the form of macro and micro-regional readiness. In the political process lies the communication and negotiation strategy built within the framework of passing Sebatik Island as a new district. In 2006 when this discourse emerged in conjunction with the visit of the central government to see the condition of the border. Desire division, which has been buried a long time and has not had time to put forward in an organized and is still waiting for the moment that is just right, with the presence of officials of the center are regarded as the moment that the right to express a desire unzip themselves.

2008-2010 was a decisive year in the Sebatik Island expansion process. The Sebatik Community Association team carries out political work to compile a civic engine to prepare administrative and legislative requirements to meet the needs of the expansion of Sebatik Island. The period was filled with political lobbies conducted by the division team to seek political support from the community and government. Lobbies politics is this that determines the sustainability of the political division of the island of Sebatik still running with good until today.

The Pure Sebatik Community Association Expansion Team has the motivation for the effectiveness and efficiency of public services. So far, the issue of distance makes the bureaucracy services in Sebatik, not prime. Armed with that, they moved voluntarily to prepare and fight for the expansion of Sebatik City. This spirit of volunteerism makes this movement more energetic because it stems from the rise of genuine community participation for progress and improvement (Sihidi 2017). Volunteerism is a strategic force because it is oriented to the public interest and is driven by professional groups that move in a structured, egalitarian, non-partisan, and networked manner (Taqwa 2018).

2011 as a political year, because there was a regional election in Nunukan Regency that made this issue very strategic. As a political commodity, an agreement was reached with one of the candidates for the regent of Nunukan, who was later elected so that Nunukan could fully help the blossoming of Sebatik Island into its city.

This can then be seen from the assistance provided by the Nunukan Regency government in the form of fulfilling several administrative requirements and other aid promises contained in the Nunukan Regent Decree (SK) whose detailed explanation will be reviewed in more depth in the subsequent description in the political process lies in the communication strategy and the negotiation is built in the framework of passing Sebatik Island as a new district.

This is according to Serpianus's explanation (Government Section of Nunukan Regency)

“The government of Nunukan Regency fully supports the expansion of Sebatik. We always coordinate with the HMS team and also the DPRD. The Regent of Nunukan is very supportive of the proposal so that he gives his approval and oversees the Sebatik division process to completion”.

Based on an academic study, the proposed new autonomous region of the City of Sebatik, East Kalimantan, conducted by Airlangga University, Surabaya, published on April 25, 2012, stated that Sebatik deserves to be a New Autonomous Region. Based on the results of analysis studies that have been carried out, both quantitatively and qualitatively, it can be concluded that the following are: based on the perception and preference test of the Sebatik people, it was found that the majority of the Sebatik people (94.2 percent) wanted the Sebatik to be proposed as the New Autonomous Region (DOB) on the grounds that increasing the status will accelerate the development of the Sebatik region. When asked to respondents about the Sebatik plan to become an autonomous region, 94.2 percent of respondents agreed with the program, and only 5.8 percent said they did not agree. According to them, Sebatik is appropriate to become an autonomous region if it is associated with indicators of the formation of independent areas which include: population, economic capacity, regional potential, financial capacity, social culture, social politics, area size, defense, security, level of public welfare and span of control. The results show that according to respondents based on population potential is very appropriate 42.6 percent, deserve 52.6 percent, and only 4.5 percent said it was inappropriate. In terms of economic capability, 54.2 percent said it was necessary, 32.9 percent was very appropriate, and only 12.9 percent chose less suitable. On a potential factor in 51 percent say inappropriate areas, 42.6 percent chose a very relevant, remaining only 6.5 percent stated inappropriately.

In terms of potential financial capacity, 51 percent said it was appropriate, 31 percent said it was appropriate, and 18 percent said it was inappropriate. In the socio-cultural aspect, which said 65.2 percent was suitable, chose 31.6 percent very inappropriately, and only 3.2 percent said it was inappropriate. From the socio-political factors that said 65.2 percent were appropriate, 30.3 percent were very appropriate, and 4.5 percent were inappropriate. In the regional aspect, there was 63.2 percent who said they deserved, 32.9 percent were very reasonable, and those who chose were less than 3.9 percent. For the defense aspect, which said it deserves 60 percent, then it is very worth 37.4 percent, the rest is less appropriate 2.6 percent. In the security sector, which said it was 59.4 percent, it was 38.1 percent; it was inappropriate 1.9 percent, and the

rest who said it was inappropriate 0.6 percent. In the aspect of the level of welfare of the people who said it deserved 52.3 percent, then very much earned 31 percent and the rest less than deserving 16.8 percent.

From the aspect of the span of control (between regions), which said it deserved 68.4 percent, those who chose were very deserving 31 percent, and those who accepted were inappropriate 16.8 percent. The highest level of appropriateness, according to respondents, is the range of control (distance between regions) of 68.4 percent. Administrative issues are, of course, the most dominant consideration because geographically the farthest distance between Sebatik and Nunukan is around 95 km. The Sebatik community's approval of the plan to make Sebatik become an autonomous region according to them because, based on the indicators listed in Government Regulation, No. 78/2007 shows that Sebatik can become an autonomous region. As many as 56.1 percent of respondents stated that in terms of the population of Sebatik, it needed to be developed into a New Autonomous Region. In the economic capability sector, which said it needs to be developed 51 percent, which said it needs to be developed 48.4 percent and the remaining 0.6 percent. In terms of regional potential, which means it needs to be developed by 58.1 percent, 40.6 percent needs to be developed, and 1.3 percent less needs to be developed. In the financial capability sector, which said it needs to be developed 51.6 percent, it needs to be developed 47.7 percent and less needs to be improved 0.6 percent. The socio-cultural aspects that said need to be designed 69 percent, really need to be developed 28.4 percent, and less need to be developed 2.6 percent. In the socio-political aspect, which says it needs to be developed, 69.7 percent, it needs to be developed 24.5 percent, less needs to be improved 4.5 percent, and it doesn't need to be grown 1.3 percent.

In terms of the area of the region which says it needs to be developed 56.8 percent, it needs to be developed 26.5 percent, less needs to be developed 11 percent, and it doesn't need to be grown 5.8 percent. The defense aspect that chooses needs to be developed 58.7 percent, really needs to be developed 33.5 percent, less needs to be improved by 6.5 percent, and no need to be improved by 1.3 percent. In the security sector, which says it needs to be developed 58.1 percent, it needs to be developed 34.8 percent, less needs to be improved 6.5 percent and does not need to be grown 0.6 percent. At the level of community welfare which says it needs to be developed 54.8 percent and needs to be developed 45.2 percent. In the range of control (distance between regions), 67.1 percent need to be developed, 29.7 percent need to be developed, 1.9 percent less need to be established and 1.3 percent need not be extended. The community's expectation, which is representative of the sample population, is quite significant towards the planned expansion to become an autonomous region. From the results of the survey of respondents that were sampled, people's expectations of the proposed development in sequence of 4 priority scales that really needed to be developed were; regional potential which states 58.1 percent, the level of community welfare which states 54.8 percent, financial capacity which states 51.6 percent, and economic ability 51 percent.



Public perceptions and preferences that generally support the Sebatik plan to become a New Autonomous Region (DOB), in addition to geopolitically the location of Sebatik Island is very strategic, also because, in reality, the facilities and infrastructure available in the region are already eligible to support Sebatik becoming an autonomous region. Second, public perception of Sebatik's proposal to become a new autonomous region is closely related to various supporting facilities in Sebatik that have fulfilled the requirements. Based on the measurement of indicators in the context of forming a new autonomous region, a value of 413 is obtained, which means it can be classified as a region capable of becoming a new autonomous region. The total number is derived from two groups of indicators. In the first indicator group, figures on population factors of 85 (scale 80-100), economic capacity factors of 60 (scale 60-75), potential regional factors of 61 (range of 60-75), and financial capacity of 65 (scale 60-75). While in the second indicator group, the socio-cultural factor was obtained 28, socio-political factor was 23, the area was 5, the defense was 25, security was 15, welfare was 25, and the range of control was 17. Third, referring to the Regulation government Number 78 the year 2007 on t ata How Establishment, Abolition, and the Regional Merger Sebatik can be recommended into the New Autonomous Region.

Furthermore, on February 15, 2012 the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) of the Nunukan Regency issued a Decree (SK) with Number 2 / DPRD / 2012 concerning Approval for the formation of the Sebatik City in East Kalimantan Province which reads; first, approving the structure of the City of Sebatik, East Kalimantan Province; secondly, fully supporting the formation of the City of Sebatik whose territory includes Sebatik District, West Sebatik District, East Sebatik District, Sebatik Tengah District, North Sebatik District from the area of Nunukan Regency. In the decision ruling, the Nunukan Regency DPRD considers that the condition of the Sebatik people is part of the community in Kauteten Nunukan, viewed from the geographical aspect of the people residing in the border region, so that concrete steps need to be taken to accelerate the development process and services that can really touch the community at the border and that in order to follow up the aspirations and support that develops in the city and in the framework of increasing the effectiveness and results of government governance, implementation, and community development, it is necessary to form a new autonomous region.

DPRD Nunukan also on September 19, 2012, issued a decree number 15 / DPRD / 2012 regarding the approval of the Location of the Candidate Capital City of Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province which stated that it approved the Location of the Candidate capital of Sebatik City in the Sebatik Timur District. The consideration used is that to accelerate the implementation of government in the District and ensure the existence of the Sebatik city area resulting from the division of Nunukan Regency, it is necessary to include the subdistrict area included in the Sebatik city area.

Also on September 19, 2012, the Nunukan Regional House of Representatives issued a decree number 12 / DPRD / 2012 concerning Approval of Providing Support in Order to Fund the Implementation of Regional Head Elections for the first time in the Sebatik City Region of East Kalimantan Province deciding that approving the granting of support and financing for the Regional Head Election and the first Deputy Regional Head to the Sebatik City candidates and the provision of financial assistance as referred to in the form of grants in accordance with the financial capacity of the region. The consideration is that to support the smooth holding of the General Election of the first Regional Head and Deputy Regional Head to the Sebatik City candidates for East Kalimantan Province to be formed, the Nunukan DPRD supports the provision of funds to be allocated in the Nunukan Regency Regional Budget.

DPRD Nunukan also on September 19, 2012 issued a decree number 11 / DPRD / 2012 concerning Approval of Grant Granting to Support Government Administration to Candidates in Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province who decided to approve grants to support governance for 2 years in a row to Candidates Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province, which of course is adjusted to the financial capacity of the region as of the inauguration of the City of Sebatik as an autonomous region. The consideration is that to support the smooth governance, development, and the society on Sebatik State candidates will be established; then, the Nunukan Parliament supports granting funds to be allocated in the budget Nunukan.

On September 19, 2012 the Nunukan DPRD issued Decree No. 14 / DPRD / 2012 concerning Approval for the Disbursement of Office Infrastructure for Government Administration and Public Services Within the Area Scope of the Sebatik City in East Kalimantan Province decided to approve the surrender of regional government facilities and infrastructure Nunukan to Sebatik City Candidates in East Kalimantan Province.

On the same date the Nunukan Regency DPRD issued a decree number 13 / DPRD / 2012 concerning Approval of the Submission of Some Assets of the Nunukan Regency Government to the Candidates of Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province, deciding to approve the handover of some of the assets of the Nunukan Regency to the Sebatik City candidates of East Kalimantan Province.

On 19 September 2012 the DPRD of Nunukan Regency issued a decree with number 10 / DPRD / 2012 concerning Approval of Subdistrict Release for Regional Coverage of Candidates for Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province, deciding that to approve the release of Sebatik District, East Sebatik District, North Sebatik District, and West Sebatik District and Sebatik Tengah District is the prospective area of Sebatik City in Kalimantan Timur Province. The consideration used is that to accelerate the administration of government in the District and ensure the existence of the Sebatik City region as a result of the division of the Nunukan Regency, it is necessary to release the Subdistrict area that is included in the Sebatik City area.

The Regent of Nunukan also gave great support in the realization of Sebatik City as a new autonomous region. On September 24, 2012, the Regent of Nunukan made several important decisions. First, issued a decree number 188.45 / 683 / IX / 2012 concerning Approval for the Establishment of Candidates for Sebatik City in East Kalimantan Province decided: First, to approve the formation of Sebatik City candidates for East Kalimantan Province. Secondly, the area of the candidates for Sebatik City, as referred to in Diktu one, covers the Districts of Sebatik, North Sebatik, East Sebatik, West Sebatik, Central Sebatik. Third, this agreement is intended to complete the administrative requirements for the establishment of new autonomous regions.

Second, the decree number 188.45 / 684 / IX / 2012 concerning the Approval of the Location and Name of the Candidates for the Sebatik Capital City of East Kalimantan Province decided to determine the location and candidates for the Sebatik Capital City in the East Sebatik District with the name of the Sebatik Capital and the location and location of the prospective capital as intended evidenced by a picture of the situation / sketch of oasis in accordance with the results of the study of the formation of the New Autonomous Region of Sebatik City and other accompanying documents as stated in the map which is attached to this decision.

Third, a decree number 188.45 / 685 / IX / 2012 concerning Approval for the Release of Subdistricts that Enter the Sebatik City Region of East Kalimantan Province which decides to approve the release of subdistricts that are included in the Sebatik City area which consists of Sebatik Subdistrict, East Sebatik District, North Sebatik District, West Sebatik District, and Central Sebatik District.

Fourth, the decree number 188.45 / 686 / IX / 2012 concerning the Approval of Assistance in Financing for Government Administration to Candidates of Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province, which decided to approve government funding assistance for two years in a row to candidates for Sebatik city in the amount of Rp. 20,000,000,000 (20 billion Rupiah) provided in the form of grants to finance the administration of government.

Fifth, the decree number 188.45 / 687 / IX / 2012 concerning Approval of Development Allocation Assistance To the Sebatik City Candidates in the East Kalimantan Province who decided to approve government funding assistance for two consecutive years to the prospective Sebatik city in the amount of Rp. 25,000,000,000 (25 billion Rupiah) provided in the form of grants to finance development to the potential Sebatik City of East Kalimantan Province.

Sixth, the decree number 188.45 / 688 / IX / 2012 concerning Approval of Assistance in Financing for Regional Election for the First Time to Candidates for Sebatik City in East Kalimantan Province decided that approving the first time selection of regional head election to the candidates for Sebatik City in East

Kalimantan Province is Rp. 5,000,000,000 (5 billion) for 2 (two) rounds in the form of grants for the first regional head election to the candidates for Sebatik City, East Kalimantan Province.

Seventh, decree number 188.45 / 689 / IX / 2012 concerning Approval of Submission of Some Assets of the Nunukan Regency Government to Candidates of Sebatik City Province of East Kalimantan decides that approving the handover of some of the assets of the Nunukan Regency government to Sebatik City Candidates of East Kalimantan Province with details that have been specified in the agreement.

Eighth, a decree number 188.45 / 690 / IX / 2012 concerning Approval for the Transfer of Some PNSD Personnel in Nunukan Regency To the Candidates of Sebatik City in East Kalimantan Province decided that approving the transfer of some PNSD personnel from the Nunukan Regency to the Sebatik City candidates in East Kalimantan Province whose details had been determined.

Nunukan DPRD's strong support is inseparable from the great concern for improving the quality of development on Sebatik Island. This was confirmed by Ngatijan (Deputy Chairperson of the 2009-2014 Nunukan DPRD),

“ DPRD Nunukan fully supports the division of Sebatik City. So far, the obstacles there are related to the difficulty of access to Nunukan and the slow pace of bureaucracy. DPRD believes that pemekaran will accelerate development in Sebatik. That is why we strongly support this policy”.

Nasir conveyed a similar explanation from Commission III of the Nunukan DPRD 2009-2014 period,

“ DPRD so far has not only been supporting from an administrative aspect but also its political process, especially in assisting the Provincial DPRD and the DPR-RI. We understand that the political aspect is so crucial that we truly guard these aspirations. We have intensive communication with the Provincial DPRD and also the DPR-RI. The lobbying process aims to make the Sebatik City expansion process run smoothly.’

The Sebatik City division team needs strong support from these elements as a condition of Administration. All administrative requirements are then submitted to the Regional House of Representatives of the Province of East Kalimantan for review and subsequently forwarded to the center for a full review. At the meeting on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at 2:00 pm until finished in the Commission 1 DPRD East Kalimantan meeting room with the Hearing to unite the perception and expect constructive suggestions and criticism between the East Kalimantan DPRD Commission 1, the Nunukan Regency DPRD and the Sebatik City division Team.

The meeting produced conclusions in the form of:

1. Commission 1 DPRD of the Province of East Kalimantan asks the Sebatik City Expansion Team to submit copies of equipment files relating to the Sebatik City expansion.
2. Commission 1 DPRD of East Kalimantan Province requested the city of batik Expansion Team to maintain the cohesiveness of the people in five (5) Districts, namely Sebatik, East Sebatik, North Sebatik, Central Sebatik, and West Sebatik.
3. Commission 1 of the Regional Parliament of East Kalimantan Province in principle fully supports the formation of the Sebatik City New Autonomous Region (DOB) which is a division of the Nunukan Regency of East Kalimantan as long as all the requirements of applicable laws are met

Furthermore, this proposal is then submitted to Commission II of the DPR-RI. As a political institution, the ongoing process of tugging off interests is robust. This is where the political process is felt, no consensus occurs so that there are no recommendations for the expansion of Sebatik City. This is suspected to be due to a request for a sum of money by unscrupulous Commission II officials who were unable to be agreed by the Regent of Nunukan together with the expansion team. This was approved directly by Kamal Suryanto (Head of the Sebatik DOB Wahana Expansion Team)

“ We've all agreed to expand by improving public services and welfare. The Regent of Nunukan, the DPRD of Nunukan, the Governor of East Kalimantan, and the DPRD of East Kalimantan are okay. Well, the execution in this center is substantial. The information I heard was that there was a request for money from the Regent that was not fulfilled because, at that time, the regent had no money. Modes like this are standard in the process of recommending pemekaran in the DPR, which are very reasonable, although difficult to prove. The actual procedure is in commission II of the DPR-RI. During this stagnation there. The escort process we carried out was rather tricky because there was a political institution that required a high level of compromise and negotiation. The efforts made have not been maximized. Regarding the issue of asking for money, the problem was indeed widely heard and might make sense. Sebatik City is already very decent to be divided, a study by Airlangga states that. If a recommendation fails to come out in a political institution, it means that politically, there is a failed lobbying process”.

## CONCLUSION

The discourse of regional expansion is seen as a logical consequence of the era of local autonomy. The centralized development model results in an uneven distribution of development in Indonesia. As a result, upheaval ensued, which was then tried to be resolved through regional autonomy, which subsequently had further consequences with the proliferation of regional divisions. A short definition of expansion means the breakdown of smaller territories with the aim of effective and efficient governance. Expansion is one of the most rational reasons addressing the vastness of Indonesia's land, which sometimes hinders development acceleration.

The division priority is significant for regions with special conditions such as borders. As a region that is geographically bordered directly with other countries, accelerating development is very urgent to be done so that the sense of nationalism does not fade. For this reason, Sebatik Island, as an island directly adjacent to Malaysia, has to be expanded. Moreover, based on an academic study conducted by Airlangga University in 2012, Sebatik Island deserves to be developed into a city.

Sebatik Island, in terms of infrastructure and local potential, according to Unair's study as an independent and credible institution, is worthy of expansion. Now we are just waiting for the approval of the central government. It's only that Sebatik Island has been constrained with minimal development quality, demanding access to government to Nunukan, inefficiency, and ineffectiveness of bureaucratic services. All these factors make Sebatik Island poorly managed. It is directly adjacent to Malaysia's Tawau, whose development is better so that it makes the envy of the Sebatik people, if not immediately managed or responded wisely, can backfire for Indonesian.

The long road starting from 2006 when this discourse emerged to this day has reached the level of discussion of the Indonesian House of Representatives that should be pondered together. That big dream of turning Sebatik Island into a City requires a series of reasonably long processes and strong determination. The political process is so complicated because it has to deal with many stakeholders with a variety of interests that also requires alacrity from the Sebatik Community Association as the activating team of Pemekaran. Areas There are many precise steps in the form of active high-level negotiations to convince the government and the Parliament to willing to consciously and critically divide Sebatik Island.

This great hope indeed needs to be realized immediately so that the accelerated development of local democratization on Sebatik Island can be carried out directly. But do not let the time goes by as many dirty hands are riding on this discourse of expansion. These hidden hands play neatly to get long-term economic benefits through this political investment. Usually, this is done by the local political elite or political parties to obtain political office in the Sebatik City in the future. To minimize this threat, the Sebatik Community Association needs to neutralize itself from the political temptations so as not to catch a cold and lose orientation

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