

Model of Indonesia-PNG Border Area Management of Keerom District

Melyana Ratana Pugu

International Relations Department, Cenderawasih University, Kampus Uncen Waena Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia. 99351

Abstract

This a brief report on a research conducted on the Indonesia's border management model with Papua New Guinea (PNG) , particularly in Keerom District, Waris sub-district and Banda village where a border crossing post has been erected. The purpose of the research is to offer an alternative or specific model of border area management in Keerom district for economy development and security management. Also, this research is conducted to get a better understanding on the impact of the border management on human security in relation to securing territorial integrity. The general objective of the research is to get a comprehensive understanding of the management of Keerom district adopted by local government of Keerom and to understand the effectiveness of cooperation and agreement between Indonesia and PNG on addressing the border issues. This research used qualitative research and data was collected through observation, interviews and documents analysis. The study suggest that the model of border management which has been implemented by the Indonesian government does not have positive impacts on the community living in the area, Particularly, with regards to development, market facilities, schools and health services.

Keywords: Model, Management, Border area, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea.

I. Introduction

Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) share land and maritime boundaries. As transnational crimes and other kinds of crimes and violence most often take place in the border area of both countries, Intensive cooperation and discussion among key sectors need to be promoted to solve the problems and the effort to seek for an effective border management has to be the highest priority. The Joint Border Committee was established by Indonesia and PNG, where both countries formed a team in 1981 to manage the border issues. The mechanism to address border problems and manage the populations living in the border area is included under the *Special Arrangements for Traditional and Customary Border Crossing* between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Papua New Guinea. This management was initiated in 1976 and officially signed by the two countries on 4th August 1982 in Port Moresby. On 20th October 1984, there was a continuation of the agreement and then a Joint Border Committee was established as an implementation of article 2 of Basic Agreement which functions to manage and solve social and cultural issues in the border of the two countries.

The Joint Border Committee (JBC) Meeting has been held annually. This meeting is attended by officials of ministerial level or directorate general of both countries by rotating the place of meeting. The job of JBC is to execute the Basic Agreement between the two countries, monitor the progress and review the border agreement.

Within the JBC there are three supporting organisations, namely, Border Liaison Meeting (BLOM), Joint Technical Sub Committee Boundary and Mapping on the border area (JTSC) and Joint Sub Committee on Security Matter related to the border areas (JSCS). These organisations usually meet twice a year. In 2015, the BLOM meeting was held in Jayapura from 4th-5th June and discussed the sea border crossing regulation, drug smuggling, illegal logging, infrastructure and electricity developments. The model of border management carried out by the two countries mostly revolves around regular meetings and the implemenations of the agreed decisions.

II. Geographic and Social Conditions and Population in Keerom District

Keerom is a district in Papua Province bordering with Papua New Guinea. Keerom district has 7 sub-districts : Skanto, Arso, Web, Waris, Senggi, Arso Timur and Towe. Among the seven, only five have direct border with PNG namely Waris, Senggi, Web, Arso Timur and Towe, Meanwhile the other two border with Jayapura City of Papua Province. Keerom district is a new district separated from Jayapura district based on Law No.22/2001 and it was officially established on 12th April 2003. the population of Keerom district is about 51,818 (BPS 2014). This figure includes indigenous Papuans and migrants from other parts of Indonesia who came to Papua between 1964 and 2000. Most migrants live in Arso and Skanto sub-district while indigenous Papuans live in the other sub-districts.

The economic condition of the people can be seen through the presence of traditional markets in the sub-districts where selling produce is the main way that people can earn money. Arso has 5 traditional markets; 4

in Skanto,1 in Senggi, Arso Timur has 6 traditional markets while there are none in Waris, Web and Towe. There are more markets in areas inhabited by migrants and fewer or none in places inhabited by indigenous Papuans. This means that the economic conditions of Indigenous people in Keerom need more attention.

In the education sector, there are not many schools, Schools are not easily accessible and there is no transportation to school so children tend to walk long distances. Moreover, the health condition of people in the border area is poor. For example, it is reported that there are 22 cases of HIV, 115 cases of sexually transmitted infections, 4047 cases of diarrhoea, 18 cases of dengue fever, 397 cases of TB and 9501cases of malaria (BPS 2014). Meanwhile, the number of doctors is limited and they are concentrated in districts where migrants live. Arso has 21 doctors, Skanto 2, Waris 3, Arso Timur 1, while there is none in Senggi, Web nor Towe. Keerom has only 1 hospital located in Arso as a centre of District, and it also has 8 public health .This shows that although there are a lot of health problems in Keerom, not many doctors are available to help the people, along with minimum health facilities.

III. Alternative Model of Managing the Border Area

Based on my observation in Waris sub-district 1th -6th Auguts 2016, especially at Banda Vilage in the Kwek countryside, I found several main problems. **First**, people living in the area are marginalized. This can be seen from their poor living conditions, no health facilities, only an elementary school is accessible, while junior and senior high schools are far away and difficult to reach as no public transportation is available. There are 33 households in Kwek and most support their living by farming and any other agricultural activities. **Second**, Border Crossing post has been established since 2006, with two officials who have been there since 2010. According to the officials, their activities are based on what the government instruct them to do. They only do regular things such as writing the data of people going in and out of the border. Usually, within a day are 4-5 people or a group of 9 people crossing from PNG to Indonesia. **Third**, the main reason people from PNG are going into Indonesia via Waris sub-district, within the countryside of Kwek is due to economic reason. They come to exchange special kind of timber with rice and frying oil from Indonesia. **Fourth**, the role of Keerom local government still seem to be insufficient as no public government is available, nor there is any market and health facilities, such as community health centre. **Fifth**, the border crossing post is still not in a good condition, with considerably minimum facilities and no activities. **Sixth**, no tight control on border crossers has become a serious threat for both governments regarding transnational crime such as drugs smuggling and illegal logging. **Seventh**, there is minimum monitoring and supervision. **Eight**, there are only 3 military control along the sub-district Waris.

From those conditions, it shows that JBC existing in the state level has to form a Border Unit with members consisting of village chiefs, district heads and officials from two countries with jobs to report the conditions and problems within the border area regularly,once in every 3 months, to the districts and provincial border departments, so therefore, the information will be updated and any solution can be taken accordingly.

IV. Conclusion

The model of managing border implemented by Indonesia and PNG to improve the border area of both countries, based on joint agreement under the framework of Joint Border Committee existed since 1982, has not significantly contributed to the development of people in Banda Village, countryside of Kwek in Waris sub-district. People still live in poor conditions and health facilities are not available. Therefore, the model involving indigenous people by forming border unit with members from village chiefs and heads of sub-district with jobs to report and share update information and problems in the border areas has to be made.

References:

- ✚ Arifin, Saru. 2014. *Hukum Perbatasan Darat Antarnegara*. Jakarta: Sinar Grafika Press
- ✚ Badan Pusat Statistics (Statistic Indonesia).2014. *Keerom Dalam Angka (Keerom in Number)*
- ✚ Bungin, Burhan. 2008. *Penelitian Kualitatif*, Cetakan Kedua, Jakarta: Kencana Media Prenada Press
- ✚ Neuman WL. 2007. *Social Research and Methods; Qualitative and quantitative Approach*, Fourth Edition, Boston: Allyn& Bacon Press
- ✚ Sutisna, Sobar, et al. 2010. *Mengelola Perbatasan Indonesia Di Dunia Tanpa Batas*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu Press

Authors Notes

The researcher is a permanet lecturer at the Department of International Relations of Cenderawasih University in Papua,Indonesia since 2003. Her research interests include Human Security Issues and Border Studies. She was born in Jayapura in 1976. She graduated from Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta. Her major is International Relations especially human security and border areas.

