

Nederlandsche bestuur during culturstelsel at the Semangka Baai

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the implementation of the *Cultuurstelsel* period in Semangka Baai. Semangka Baai is an area that is used to shape the politics and economy of the *Cultuurstelsel* era, which is located near the port of Kota Agung. *Semangka Baai* is one of the implementation areas for *Cultuurstelsel* in the form of pepper plantations managed by Europeans and is the center of pepper cultivation in Lampung. In 1914 Lampung was able to produce 13,207 tons of pepper for the Dutch East Indies and one of the largest pepper producers in Lampung came from *Semangka Baai*. However, behind the historical facts that were owned by the Semangka Baai area at the time of the implementation of the *Cultuurstelsel* period, many indigenous people of *Semangka Baai* or now known as Semangka did not know more about the historical journey of the glory of pepper plantations as the main commodity in the Lampung residency. The method used in this research is the historical method with heuristic stages by collecting data sources, verifying or investigating the data, interpretation by establishing meaning and interrelation with the facts obtained, and historiography by rewriting the data obtained. The results of this study provide an explanation that the *Cultuurstelsel* period had been applied in Lampung, especially in the Teluk Semangka area as evidenced by the many plantations that were mostly managed by Europeans and even became the center of pepper cultivation in Lampung. In addition, *Nederlandsche Bestuur* or Dutch governance in Semangka Baai has an influence on people's lives in Semangka Baai, such as settlement conflicts, robbers, to social and cultural influences.

KEYWORDS

Cultuurstelsel; Semangka Baai;
Nederlandsche bestuur;

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Introduction

The forced cultivation was first established by Van den Bosch. The Governor General of the Dutch East Indies. He was tasked with not achieving this. The financial situation in the *Nederlandsche* is so serious that this challenge is urgent. At that time, the *Nederlandsche* had a debt that was so high that it could not be resolved alone, with this situation they sought a solution in their colony, Indonesia. Solution idea the initiated cultivation system which was later known as *Cultuurstelsel* (Kartodirjo, 1991). The term used in Dutch is not limited to the economic aspect, so the word *Cultuurstelsel* in Indonesia actually is "cultivator system" or sometimes called cultivation. However, in reality from the management side, colonial politics was more prominent in Indonesian territory. The production is carried by the community or farmers under supervision of the local government, starting from the regent to the village level (Zulkarnain, 2010).

The VOC, which at that time had already established its influence in the Banten kingdom, intended to control and monopolize the spice products from Lampung. Lampung was then seen as an area with considerable potential as a plantation and agrarian area (Hadikusumas, 1989). In addition, the factor of soil fertility is also one of the factors why Lampung became a colonization destination. Even the relatively fertile land made Lampung during the VOC and Dutch colonial times a production land for plantation land (Budianto, 2020). In addition, the area in Lampung, namely *Semangka Baai*, is one of the areas where forced cultivation is applied. Because the *Semangka Baai* area has fertile soil and a fairly large river flow. Where the flow of the river has caused many to become a trading port. The Dutch also came and occupied the Way Semangka area as one of the experimental areas for forced cultivation. The colonial government implemented a forced cultivation system. The farmers had to hand over the pepper as a tax to the colonial government. Realizing the failure of the land lease system, the government continued to function the role of Jenang to order farmers to plant pepper. The gardeners are contracted to grow a certain amount of pepper; 1000 sticks for

family processors and 500 sticks for single men (Marsden, 2013). The colonial government gave a salary to Jenang in return for collecting the produce. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in studying more deeply in a study entitled “*Nederlandsche Bestuur*, and the impact of the *Cultuurstelsel* in the *Semangka Baai* area.

Literature review

Researchers used various reading sources from books, one which was a book entitled “*Sumatra in 1818 Naar Oorspronkelijke Stukken*” written by PH Van Der Kemp in (1920) which provides an overview of the *Cultuurstelsel* implemented in the Semangka Baai area and its impact on life. Especially in the social and cultural fields. In addition, research also use relevant journals, one of which is a journal compiled by Ariwibowo in 2018 with the title “Economic and Trade Activities in the Lampung Residency Period 1856 to 1930” which tells of economic activity, one of which was during the *Cultuurstelsel* in the Lampung Residency area, especially in Semangka Baai. Furthermore, the researcher also used the thesis compiled by Yuli Kristian entitled “Dutch Economic Politics Against Lampung in the Year 1800-1942” in (2019). The literature review in this study is as follows:

Cultuurstelsel

The Cultivating System or what can be called also *Cultuurstelsel* is a policy issued by the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies, namely Johannes Van Bosch. This forced cultivation period became one of the deepest wounds and left an imprint on the people of Indonesia. Cultivation is a policy that requires every village to devote 20 percent of its land to export commodities and the people or local residents to work voluntarily on government land. The Indonesian people interpret it as forced cultivation because the implementation process is carried out by coercion. The *Cultuurstelsel* or Forced Cultivating System was dismissed after receiving various criticisms with the issuance of the Agrarian Law of 1870 and the Sugar Law of 1870. The XIX century witnessed the implementation of the *Cultuurstelsel* by the Dutch. State plantations producing export materials had to fall and be over by Dutch private growers. These plantations, both state-owned and private, need land and labor. This policy was formed to withdraw land and labor from the farmers through the tax system. This forced cultivation policy arose as a result of the Dutch colonial conditions which at that time were being squeezed and experiencing various events. There are several things behind the emergence of forced cultivating policies, namely as follows:

- 1) The *Nederlandsche* ran out of funds when it joined the wars of Napoleon Bonaparte's heyday in Europe.
- 2) The Belgian War of Independence occurred and ended with the separation of Belgium from the *Nederlandsche* in 1830.
- 3) The Dutch spent around 20 million guilders to deal with the Diponegoro War (1825-1830).
- 4) The Dutch state treasury is empty and has quite a lot of debt.
- 5) The income from coffee cultivation is not very productive.
- 6) The Dutch failed to apply liberal ideas (1816-1830), namely in exploiting the colonized lands in order to provide large profits for the Dutch

Nederlandsche Bestuur

Nederlandsche Bestuur is the Dutch constitution which consists of three levels of government, namely; central, provincial and municipal governments. However, in practice there are much more, such as regional governments, water councils, and Europe. The Netherlands is an example of a decentralized unitary state. *Nederlandsche Bestuur* is applied in every district (Blink, 1818). One of them is in *Semangka Baai*. *Nederlandsche Bestuur* concerns the administrative area of the Dutch East Indies government (Kemp, 1920). The division of administrative areas during the reign of the Dutch East Indies aimed to facilitate the Dutch East Indies government in supervising financial administration activities in each region. assigned *controleur* who is responsible for implementing and supervising various problems contained in the government system (Aldi, 2021).

Semangka Baai

Bay is a water that juts into the mainland and is often used as a port. From the 15th century to the 17th century AD, the *Semangka Baai* area was passed as a trade route before heading to Betung Bay. However, since the 10th century AD, although there have been ancient settlements upstream of Way Semangka, this area is rarely mentioned in historical sources. The historical record of the underpass or *Semangka Baai* is an interesting issue. The spread of the early settlers of the Saibatin clan, who lived in the *Semangka Baai* area and came from the upper Liwa area via Way Semangka, across forests and steep mountains due to its short stretch. As a result of the impact of the active management of the Semangka fault, a long chronology of upstream and downstream settlements can be seen due to environmental vulnerabilities due to disasters (Rusyanti, 2019).

The *Semangka Baai* area is a downstream route from the Way Semangka route, which ends from Liwa, Suou to Tanggamus Bay. In general, the geology of this line has the same characteristics, meaning that the shape of the active fault is influenced by fault lines or structural control. The topography of this area is dominated by structural, *alluvial* and *stripping*. Topography of structural origin arises from endogenous processes such as tectonic and crustal movements. This process involves the lifting, sinking, and folding of the crust to form geological structures. Folds

and breaks. The geological formations of river origin, such as rivers (layered water), are produced by concentrated and decentralized water activity, resulting in prominent terrain formed by the activity of water flowing over the surface, and terrain exposed by weathering, erosion, and rock processes. movement that leads to an increase or decrease in the earth's surface (Rusyanti et al. 2018). The environmental features of *Semangka Baai* are mud, sand, silt, coral, gravel, boulder deposits and the undulating bedrock of the gently curved beach. Lithofacies consist of alluvium (clay, silt, coastal Tufa sand) and wetland deposits of sand, silt, sandstone, mudstone and claystone (Wirawan et al. 1999).

Methods

The method used in this research is the historical method which is defined as a process of critically examining and analyzing various authentic and reliable past sources and making interpretations and synthesis of historical facts (Wardah, 2014). The historical method has several steps such as; heuristics, criticism, interpretation and historiography. The first historical research step is the collection of sources accompanied by evidence through written sources or through direct observation, this activity is called heuristics (Herlina, 2020). In this case, the researcher collects sources from books, archives, journals, as well as theses and theses. The second stage is criticism which is divided into external and internal criticism which will provide results in the form of the latest sources and clarity of sources (Sayono, 2021). Researchers criticize the sources that have been obtained. The next stage is the activity of interpreting the facts so that researchers can determine the meaning that is interconnected with the facts obtained, this stage is called the interpretation stage (Herdiani, 2016). In interpreting various sources carefully and in detail in order to obtain research results. The last stage the researcher takes is historiography or historical writing, at this stage the historian's ability to use the theory and methodology will greatly affect the historiography produced (Sukmana, 2021). Data Collection techniques through interviews with traditional leaders Pun Sahlan as well the owner of the Kekhatuan Semaka Museum. Researchers conducted historiography in scientific articles as a result of research entitled "*Nederlandsche Bestuur During the Cultuurstelsel Period in Semangka Baai*".

Results

Way Semangka is one of the five major rivers in Lampung and is deserted from historical records, in contrast to the other two rivers, namely The Tulang Bawang and Sekampung which have been reported by Tome Pires in the 16th century AD. It is stated that Sekampung is a vast land, on its side there is Malay land and the other side there is Tulang Bawang. Archaeological records in the *Semangka Baai* area itself, which is also downstream of the Way Semangka. It only began to be discovered in the 19th-20th centuries AD from Jeh Kohler records relating to the era of pepper trade with Banten, and the security of the Watermelon region from riots handled by Captain Hoffman in 1831 (Amran, 2017).



Figure 1. Baai van Oembar in afdeling Semangka in de Lampongsche Districten
Sumber: <https://digitalcollections.universiteitleiden.nl>

This shows where at that time *Semangka Baai* became a trade route through along the way Semangka water flow. Where the river has many branches, and is a river that has a long and large flow. It was possible along the flow of the *Semangka Baai* river to be used as a trade route during the *Cultuurstelsel period*. At that time *Semangka Baai* was also one of the areas for the implementation of the *Cultuurstelsel policy*. With an area that has fertile land for agriculture in the *Semangka Baai* area, it has also become one of the target areas of the colony era as a spice producing area and one of the largest spices, namely pepper. Lampung became one of the largest producers of pepper with good quality pepper at that time.

Since then *Semangka Baai* has become one of the trading ports in Lampung that has access to trade with foreigners. The Dutch also stopped at the port of Way Semangka and saw a lot of potential that could be utilized in the region to carry out the practice of *Cultuurstelsel*. Where the Dutch are developing gardening systems, one of them is the plantation and pepper trade. Lampung has also existed since the 16th century I already know the pepper plant. Under the control of Banten, Lampung became the largest pepper producing area in Sumatra (Imadudin, 2017).

In 1930, Lampung exported 12,920,475 kg of black pepper abroad, which is 76% of the total export of black pepper in the Dutch East Indies. Meanwhile, black pepper sent to the Dutch East Indies region reached 2,894,973 kg. The total exported black pepper reached 15,815,448 kg. Until the beginning of the 20th century, Lampung was one of the largest pepper suppliers to the Dutch who held control over the cultivation and trade of pepper in Lampung continued to fade in the 20th century. In 1930 spread jaundice that ravaged pepper gardens. The outbreak of flower-eating walang sangit and pepper fruit is a problem in itself (Masroh, 2015).

Discussion

Implementation of Nedherlandche bestuur in Semangka Baai

Inlands Bestuur is the implementing bureaucracy of Dutch colonial rule in the regions (bureaucracy in the territory of the earth people) and can also be a collaboration between the central government and the local government of the earth.

During the Dutch colonial rule, there were the terms plantation *administration* and port *administration*. They are not the executors of the writing of plantations and ports, but as *administrators* or rulers in plantations and ports who must *administer* or *manage*. A Dutch scholar, Donner, said that *bestuur* has two fields. The first field is to determine the goal, while the second field is to realize the goal of the task that has been determined by the first field. The latter field is *administratie*, which is often also called *bestuur*. In addition, Kranenburg (1947), who was an expert scholar of Dutch constitutional law, in *the Nederlandsch Staatsrecht* wrote that: "*De administratie, het bestuur zelf, dat is het voortdurend handelend optreden van organen, het functionneeren, het actief zijn dier organen*". So here the *administratie* as a government is the continuous functioning of government bodies, as an active aspect of these bodies. Another expert from the Netherlands, namely van Praag, said that "*administratie is the functie der z.g. executieve*", that *administratie* is a function of the so-called executive. It is clear that *administratie* is not just a matter of writing, but also means government. It can be concluded interim that the term *administratie* or *administration* is often associated with the implementation of laws and the implementation of political decisions by government officials (*bestuurders*).

Surrounded by the sea and almost all sides except the northern part, making Lampung has many natural diversity of waters such as bays and beaches that support coastal life activities. Lampung Bay and *Semangka Baai* are two areas that are functioned to form political and economic communities.

Lampung as a strategic and open area, makes this region a further "stage" for fighters and adventurers from outside whose bases have been conquered or those who feel aggrieved by the existence of the Dutch. Conditions like this made the people's resistance efforts not only carried out alone, but assisted by those who made the Dutch a common enemy. Not only that, the dutch treatment from within also created a closeness between clans to protect each other in times of war.

The vitality and enthusiasm from outside who took an important part were the fighters from Banten who failed in the resistance. The people of Lampung also participated in helping in it, consisting of Haji Wahya, Wak Maas, and Luru Satu who came in 1850 to reorganize relations and unite the resistance of the people of Lampung under the leadership of the White Blood Association.

Consolidation on the internal side of Lampung also occurred with the relationship between Marga Ratu and Dataran and was followed by many villages from Marga Way Urang which were previously known to have always helped the Dutch government. In 1852-1853 an alliance was formed with Prince Singa Branta of the Rajabasa clan and Dalom Mangkunegara of Semangka. Dalom Mangkunegara was a successor to the rulers in *Semangka Baai* who rebelled against the Dutch who had expertise in water defense strategies and established good relations with Bugis sailors. So the defense of the sea and the attack on the Dutch outposts in Kalianda, Rajabasa, to *Semangka Baai* from the forces of the alliance intensified.

The Impact of Nederlandsche Bestuur on the people of Semangka Baai in the social and cultural sector

Semangka Baai District consists of land and mountainous areas to the west is the sea which is partly irrigated by the Semangka River, to the North it borders Bengkulu and the East it borders the Seputih region. However, after 1883 the former city of Benawang was completely destroyed by the tidal wave now the area is controlled by *Demang* and becomes the Area of Kota Agung on the north coast of the Gulf (Eck, 1895). After the previous split of the territory in 1851 then in 1856 it was decided to rebuild an expedition in the *Semangka Baai* area led by captain Kohler (Hoevell, 1884). In 1859 there was an outbreak of cholera centered on the Dantaran Clan and the Queen's Country as well as smallpox that spread in Seputih and *Semangka Baai* so that the social conditions of the community were very concerning (Wassink, 1859).

Semangka Baai is an *Onderafdeeling* (Subdivision) area of the Great City where in 1857 with the implementation of economically motivated policies caused this period to be a bad period. At that time the area of Lampung district was divided into clans, one of which was the Pubian clan located along the east coast of *Semangka Baai*. In a social point of view there was a process of emigration in 1883 originating from *Semangka Baai* suffering with a head and poverty due to natural disasters. The *Semangka Baai* area is in the form of mountains cut off by rivers and narrow valleys, which are divided into four fields derived from Semangka, namely; Buai Belungu, Pematang Sawah, Ngarip, and

Benawang. The impact felt in the social sector is the existence of inequality or social class, where *Djenjen* intervened in the Benawang axis in Kelumbaian (1930). The existence of the pepper trade in *Semangka Baai* there are many robbers. In other cases the British often secretly entered the *Semangka Baai* area to persuade the occupation to give and sell pepper to them so that not infrequently there were also cases of smuggling or illicit trafficking (Broesma, 1916).

In terms of culture, the impact felt by the people of Lampung is a clan-shaped government system, one of which is in the *Semangka Baai* area where the eldest sons of men in the Pubian clan get all the gardens, rice fields, and houses. Meanwhile, in the system of government, each chieftain is a tribal *punyimbang* (1930). The main commodity at that time was pepper in the southeastern part which was mostly sent to Batavia, so that with the Dutch government clan system it was easier to control each region (Kristian, 2019). So that the governance applied during the Dutch rule in the *Semangka Baai* area resulted in a cultural transition whose activities were in accordance with the culture of each clan.

Conclusion

The *Semangka Baai* area is a fertile area with a fairly large river flow in Lampung. *Semangka Baai* is one of the areas for the implementation of the *Cultuurstelsel* policy issued by the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies, Johannes Van Den Bosch. *Semangka Baai* became a trade route through Way Semangka. The *Semangka Baai* area is a spice-producing area, including pepper. *Nederlandsche Bestuur* is a bureaucratic system implemented in the *Semangka Baai* area with the term *administrateur* in ports and plantations that function to form social and economic communities. The impact felt by the people of Teluk Semangka by applying *Nederlandsche Bestuur* in the field of culture such as the clan system applied in the Pubian clan area where the eldest son gets all the gardens, rice fields, and houses. Every tribe in the Pubian clan also has a tribal *punyimbang*. Meanwhile, the impact on the social sector on the people of *Semangka Baai* is the many cases of robbery and illicit trade with pepper commodities carried out by the British by affecting the community, besides that there are social gaps in the community due to the existence of *Djenjen* who often intervenes in the *Semangka Baai* community in the pepper trade.

The conclusions and suggestions section shows the answers or clarification of research questions, implications, and opportunities for future research by giving relevant suggestions.

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