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FROM CONFLICT TO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION: A CASE STUDY OF LOCAL INHABITANTS' RESISTANCE TO TIN MINING IN SELINDUNG VILLAGE, BANGKA BARAT

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ABSTRACT

The sea and the cost with the abundant resources frequently become the competition among the groups of interest. The competition is close to the conflict and ends up with the physical and verbal violence. Selindung village located in the coast area of Muntok, West Bangka is the area of the abundant resources, marine biota, and tin commodity. The contradiction of the economic interest causes the emerge of longer conflict. This study aims to map these conflicts and offers to the best alternative to cope with. This study is a qualitative research with the interview and observation strategy as the data collection. The result of the conflict mapping shows that the conflicted area shows the social tension. The pro and anti tin mining groups clash each other with the company interest, the local government, and the impact of the local people's occupation interfere that causes a conflict. The conflict itself has experienced up and down however the various tin mining moduses stand still. The conflicts that have been mapped are the competition of resource access, the social jealousy, the policy of the maritime politics that does not accommodate the fishermen' interest, as well as the issue of identity. There are four alternatives to get over these conflicts by referring to Galtung's perspective namely supporting the role of government to be more accommodating and communicative to the majority interest, ensuring no extending licence of a large scale mining in the future, mediating by having two neutral parties, and finding new economic alternative to the local people who have already been depended on the mining activity

1. INTRODUCTION

Johan Galtung in Susan (2010) states that if there are two social groups with a certain interest in the same area, therefore each group will create a perception of the interest from the other group. This process later brings the certain behavioral types that create







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contradiction and the tension (conflict). In line with Galtung, Barkah et al (2016) highlight that as long as there are the different backgrounds of social, culture, politics, religion, or economy and along with a certain conflict so there will always be an existed conflict. In the context of people environment, a conflict can happen in any sectors, two of them are in the sector of marine and the coastal resource.

According to Annisa et al. (2009), conflict in the marine and coastal sector is the consequences of the marine becoming the resources that are open access that causes the different interests. One of the causes is the matter of sector policy that frequently does not take side to the local people especially the fishermen so that it create dissension or even the violence as a form of the resistance (Sulaiman et al., 2015).

One of the areas that can be categorized as the prone conflict area in the marine sector is Bangka Island that has marine resources such as the various biota and tin resources. These two big resources usually create conflicts of interest from the various parties 9Sulista et al., 2019; Sulista, 2018). At one time there are parties that focus on the biota taking that has economic values such as fish, prawns, crabs, squids, and others; on the other hands there are parties that are interest in capturing the tin mining as much as possible by ignoring the sustainability of the marine ecosystem (Siringoringo, et al., 2015; Yuarsah, et al., 2017; Purnaweni, et al., 2019). It is not surprising there are lots of conflicts in Bangka Island (Erman, 2008; 2010; Ibrahim, 2016; Nurtjahya, et al., 2017; Pramata, 2018; Nurdin, et al, 2019; Bidayani & Kurniawan, 2020) and even worse, there are a violence occurred by the fishermen, people who are tin mining pro, mining company, the local government which has the policy issue authority, and the local people as the beneficiary from the marine and costal sectors pesisir (Rosyida, et al., 2018; Ibrahim, et al., 2019; Ibrahim et al., 2018).

The authors take note on several conflicts in the marine sector that has ever happend in Bangka Island namely a conflict involving the local people in the South Bangka and the Selapan ethnic in Toboali sub-district as the newcomers. According to the research conducted by Barkah et al (2016), the conflict existed between these two local groups comes from the one-self claiming of the natural sources such as tin, the cultural gap about







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the marine utilization, and the social segregation that is formed since the coming of Selapan Ethnic in Toboali. Another conflict is among the fishermen from Teluk Limau Village, West Bangka, the corporation of the sucking boat owned by PT Timah, Tbk and partners that operate in Teluk Limau waters along with the Local Government of Erst Bangka. According to Sulaiman et al. (2015), this conflict starts from the Regional Regulation Draft of West Bangka Region that organize the sucking boat mining. The regulation mentions that the local government allows the sucking boat operation within 0 miles from the sea. According to the community of fishermen, they imply that that the regulation impacts on the destruction of Teluk Limau waters that becomes their area of fishing. Besides, this regulation also tends to give benefit to the owner and miners of sucking boat. The people's aspiration that is not accommodated by the local government causes conflict ending up with the anarchy actions such as destruction and burning. Although lately there is a change of the regulation on tin mining authority, conflict in the marine and coastal sectors will always be the big issue. It is because the people will not focus on who is in charge but if they are disturbed or not.

One of the conflict that got attention to study is the conflict happened in Selindung village, Air Putih, Muntok, West Bangka region. There are several reasons why the studies with this conflict mapping is interesting; *first*, Although this conflict has been starting from 2016, nowadays it never really ends according to the research. Even worse, it can be a 'time bombing' in the future. *Second*, the actors are more complex than the conflict happened in Toboali and Teluk Limau village including the intrigue being used to fulfill their need and they push each other. Learning and understanding this conflict mapping can be comprehensively unraveled. *Third*, it is interesting to see the steps that are and will be done by the government or any other parties relating to the potential of the marine resource in Selindung village. The reason is that those two resources of marine cannot be used or generated maximally. The fact is the fishermen will always be the victim either because of the Floating of Unconventional Mining or The Production of the Sucking Boat.







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2. METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive qualitative research. This study uses the method and approach of qualitative to focus on the perception and the experience also the perspectives of seeing life (Cresswel: 1998). The authors especially would like to learn how things happen. In addition, Sugiyono (2009) states that a descriptive qualitative research has a purpose to describe clearly and systematically relating to the object. It also gives the information and data that are valid relating to the object and the phenomenon happened in the field. In the qualitative aspect supports that it can find more information in the field without the locked questions.

The data collection techniques are interviews, observations, and documentation with the Miles and Huberman analysis data stated in Sugiyono (2009). This model is implemented interactively and happens continuously until the data get saturated (Sugiyono: 2009). These details by Miles and Huberman in Sugiyono (2009) are explained in order as (1) Data Reduction, that means summarize, sorting out the significance, focusing on the significance, finding the theme and its pattern; (2) Data Presenting; that is when being reduced, the next is presenting the data; and (3) Drawing Conclusion for ensuring that the main focus of the study is answered.

This study is conducted in Selindung village, Air Putih, Muntok, West Bangka. The data is collected during 2017-2021 by interviewing the people in the targeted place. Furthermore, this study also enriches the data with the secondary information such as mass media and the perspectives from the expertise.

3. DISCUSSION

The mapping in the conflict, according to Trijono (2018), is a process of mapping, describing, and explaining the conflict reality happened and overcoming it systematically. Terminologically, a mapping is a technique representing the conflict in a form of drawing by situating the parties that are related to the conflict. Therefore, the mapping of the conflict is one of the technique among them and the means accommodating to analyze and solve the conflict (Sulaiman et al., 2015).







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It can be said that the mapping of the conflict is an approach that is significant and major to conduct by the certain parties if they want to learn a conflict in a society. It can lead to the approach of the conflict mapping from detecting the conflict issues to generating the certain resolution. According to Aimie et al (2015), the purpose of the conflict mapping is to learn the situation better, see the relation among the parties clearly, clarify in which the main power occurs, check the activity balance, see which one is the ally, identify the openness to the intervention. Further, according to Lambang Tridjono, there are five (5) important elements in a process of conflict mapping, namely (1) the situation or conflict settings, (2) the conflict issue (the problem being a conflict), (3) the parties that have conflict, (4) the dynamic of conflict, and (5) the alternatives of solving the conflict or resolution.

The Situation of the Conflict

The first element which is the situation of the conflict is a beginning phase to understand the background of the conflict causes that influnce the situation and the condition of the conflict further. The situation of the conflict includes: the geographical and ecological condition, the socio-economical life, structure of reality and power relation, and the people's culture life (Lambang:2018).

In the ecological perspective, the marine condition in Selindung village seems to be ironic and, at the same time, quite concerning. The colour of the water is no longer blue and clear, in fact they are muddy and oily (Observation: 2018). This phenomenon is believed relating to some of the sucking boat activities belong to the government company and its partner that are assumed still be active in this area. In addition, this condition is influenced by the operation of TIA that is allowed by the people near Selindung village. TIA is owned by the investor. Meanwhile, the ones who become the labour is the local people and the newcomers who are on purpose benefiting from this TIA.

The mining activity that happens daily can cause the destruction to the marine ecosystem. This destruction can be seen from the damage of the coral reefs, the muddiness of the sea water caused by the mud sedimentation, the changing of fishing ground that further causes the decrease of the fishermen yield in Selindung village. This phenomenon is







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frequently complained by the fishermen including when the researchers has interviewed and observed directly (Wawancara SU, 2018). The marine condition get the big influence to the majority of the people in Selindung village especially their socio-economical life. SU highlights "The people income decreases drastically since the sucking boat and TIA activities have operated. Even worse, some fishermen conduct the two job with others such as the land mining, doing plantation, and others."

From the perspective of the regulation generated by the government, there is no solution that helps the fishermen out of their 'weak' problem. On the contrary, in 2016 the government of West Bangka through its Regional Own Enterprises (BUMD) has tried to allowing TIA pontoon to the areas that is part of Selindung. It is clear that this government policy is rejected and gained complain from the majority of people. As a result, the violence almost could not be avoided when there was a meeting between BUMD, the pro side, and the people of Selindung village, the contra side, in which the authors also witnessed the moment.

The rejection that is done by the fishermen in Selindung village is actually a part of the previous experience. According to the staff of the village, SU (interviewed in 2018) says that around 2008 they had ever massively permitted and supported TIA and the sucking boats belong to one of the companies that was in charge in Selindung waters. At that time every member of Selindung village got fee from the TIA and sucking boats owners, got a job and built the village infrastructure, including the roads and mosques. However, time goes by, they has realized that there were so many negative impacts caused by that mining activity, including the destruction of the marine ecosystem which affect their job as the fishermen as well. They feel used because they only get the small portion of the mining result. The other consideration is that two years later the sea areas belonged to Selindung village is claimed by the other villages that are resulted in claiming the fees. Thus, every persuasion comes from the companies, the government, or the investor will be directly rejected by the majority of people in Selindung village relating to the operation of TIA and the sucking boats.







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The Issue of the Conflict

The issue of conflict mentioned is the problem or the controversy that is mattered by the conflicted parties. In the social conflict, this is not a single conflict. In other words, other than the main issue that might be seen as the trigger, there are always other issues that exist in society (Trijono: 2018). According to the authors' analysis, there are several social issues happened in Selindung village, namely the competition of economic resource access, the social jealousy, the problem of political marine regulation that is not accommodating and further becoming an identity issue.

The main and obvious issue is the competitive issue in finding the access to the economic resource, that is the majority of people would like to get the maximum access to catching the marine biota such as fish, prawns, squids, crabs, and others (Rudy, 2021). However, the companies, investors, and some people take the sources in a big amount. The competition to get both of the resources causes the main conflict as the resource can be taken at the same time by both parties. In other words, one of the parties might have been sacrificed.

The next issue is an indication of the social jealousy both sides. Based on the observation, those who take side to the mining, the earn is harder than the fishermen's earn because they only depend on the mining activity. Besides, they are not interested to be a fisherman although they live in the coastal area, and others have no occupation at all. The other jealousy is that if the fishermen allow the operation of TIA, it gives benefit to the investor while they only get the small portion of the result. It includes to the sucking boat operation that most fishermen always "complain" that leads to the jealousy to the gaining that the company get.

The political issue is the next. This policy both from the government and local government does not take the fishermen' side. It can be seen that local government is not able to solve the people's problem by "chasing away" the sucking boat operation. In fact, at the end of 2016 and in the middle of 2017, the local government persuades the people to agree to TIA's operation owned by BUMD that is operated in Selindung waters. In addition







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the centre government policy especially the pointed ministry does not accommodate either. The fishermen question why the government issue the permission policy that affects to the local people. At the end, that permission get a tension between the local people (fishermen) and the company and also the trust issue of the fishermen toward the government.

The last is the issue of the identity. This issue is actually not obvious however the local people feel that there are lots of newcomer of miners from outside the village even some of them are from the outside island (Romli: 2020). There are a gap between the locals and the newcomers in mining. Some of the informants report that those newcomers have done something too much. They should actually give respect to the local people. This statement indicates that the conflict has reached the issue of identity between the locals and the newcomers.

The Conflict Parties

The conflict in Selindung village, West Bangka have the parties that can be identified as (1) The group of fishermen or those who take their side; (2) group of people taking side to the mining and BUMD (especially year 2016-2017); (3) PT. Timah. Tbk., (Tin Company), and (4) The fisherman organization, West Bangka branch. Based on the observation and interview, the main actors are the group of fisherman and/or the people who take side to the fisherman and those who take side to the mining. Furthermore, the fishermen and the companies are also the main actors.

Meanwhile, the other parties such as The Fisherman Organization, West Bangka branch is only the supporting actor in Selindung village, including the police that also help support the operation of TIA. The centre government also only the supporting actor as it only isues the permission to the sucking boat mining. The researchers argue that they are only the supporting actors or can be calles as the secondary actors. Indirectly they contribute the dynamic of the conflict that basically they bring into conflict both of the main parties, while the external parties gain the advantages.







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From the Support to Resistance

In the element of the conflict dynamic, the one to be explored is how the issue emerge and how the development is from time to time. In the process of exploration, there are many parties engaging in the conflict (Trijono: 2018). In the beginning of TIA and the sucking boat operation in Selindung waters, the majority of people support the activity, including the fishermen. It is because the first *feedback* is so amusing that they are promised to get the job actively, to get additional fee, and to accelerate the village development in the infrastructure side. However, in 2010 the conflict had emerged and all the perspectives and hopes are dismissed.

In 2010, the sea controversy between Selindung people and Air Limau people cannot be avoided. It turns out that Air Limau people win over the legitimate that automatically they have right of the areas in which TIA and the sucking boat operation occur. Since then, the prospect job and additional fee that are promised should be divided into two villages. The conflict continue between these places especially for the fishermen form Selindung village that still think that the legitimate is not proper. It is strengthen by the historical fact that the only fishermen are from Selindung village, while the people from Air Limau mostly are as the miners and gardeners. It makes a great disappointment from Selindung people to the government especially the court decision.

In another moment, the fishermen also realize that the activity of the sucking boats and the floating TI (TIA) can destroy the environment in the long term. It also can be harmful for them.

The tension between Selindung and Air Limau people basically and gradually decreases since the issue of the legitimate. Nowadays, the relation is in progress though some of them are still being sentimental toward each other. Selindung people tend to 'point out their fingers' to the local government of West Bangka and to some of their own local people that now can be so loyal to the sea mining activity.

The majority of the fishermen are in difficult situation as their sources are disturbed by the activity of the sucking boats. Meanwhile the government has not yet







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done something significant toward this problem. According to Galtung (1992), what is felt by the society, especially Selindung fishermen, is called as the personal violence or direct violence as well as the structural violence. Johan Galtung in Eriyanti (2017) describes that the direct violence should be avoided relating to the level of satisfying to the fulfill of the basic needs. SP, one of the informant from the academic field, says that the mining conflict generates the anarchy in the form of destroying the mining equipment and it is not positive for the social cohesion. RH, a tourism observer, also says that the clash as a result of the mining controversy in the coastal areas so many. Selindung village is only one of the examples that influence the local potential such as tourism sector.

Although there is no physical violence experienced by Selindung people, they are still get what so called as a direct or personal violence as stated by Galtung. It is obvious that their 'home' that is the sea as the area of earning a living is destroyed by the sucking boat activity belong to the company so that their catch is not maximum. This phenomenon also limits the local people to develop the marine biota as before. Referring to typology, the direct violence by Galtung (1969) is not centered to the anatomy (firing, punching, poisoning, and others to someone's physic) but it is more to the physiological such as limiting the fishermen's way to get the marine biota, making them not getting a proper catch, and finally not being able to fulfill their family's basic needs.

Other than a direct violence, Galtung highlights the other forms of violence, that is structural violence, that is done by an individual however it is hidden in the smaller or larger system. The penetration, segmentation, marginalization, and fragmentation as the parts of exploitation are the supporting components in the structure that has function to prevent the formation and mobility to fight against exploitation (Galtung: 1969: Eriyanti: 2017). Furthermore, Galtung (1969) explains that the structural violence can produce the 'negative situations' such as a continuous inequality: resources, income, intelligence, education, also authority to decide the resource distribution becoming uneven.







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Several negative elements mentioned by Galtung are occurred to the fishermen or the majority of the people in Selindung village, especially about the income that is unequal to the 'people' who control the sea with the mining activity. Likewise, in the matter of decision maker in the use of the sea, Selindung people are always in the position to accept the decision, whatever it is though it is harmful. Nowadays, Selindung people can criticize the decision and make a protest if they think it can danger their territory although the result does never erase the direct and structural violence.

The scheme of support and resistance as well as violence is described by the author as follows:

Previous Attitude

Nowadays Attitude

Full awareness

Selindung
People Attitude

Reject

No fee

Economic potential gone

The potential of direct violence
vs structural violence

Scheme 1. Changes in Attitudes and Opportunities for Violence

The above scheme shows that there is a changing in attitude of Selindung People to the tin mining from supporting to get the fee and not being aware of the consequences to rejecting the activity. The rejection is divided into the three main arguments namely the awareness of the consequence, the missing of the fee from the company as a result of the claiming with other villages, and the missing of the economic potential as a resut of the environment destruction. In the perspective of Galtung, the direct violence has a chance to happen among the parties. At the same time, the structural violence happens when the people have no proper access to the centre government in the making of decision, even about their own self.







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Alternatives of Conflict Solution

The alternative of conflict solution that has a satisfying result indeed is challenging to find and apply. Even worse the conflict is quite complex and involve many parties, such as conflict happened in Selindung, West Bangka. The effort to solve the conflict has been done through the mediation among the parties that is involved in Selindung village and the company. However, the meeting does not gain the significant resolution comprehensively.

The meeting only reduces the tension a bit but the reality is that the conflict is still there. Like the tension between people who are pro and contra, the conflict still exists in which among them forming a smaller group and exclusively doing the activity without involving others. Besides, secretly, the group who support the mining activity try to accommodate their own interest although Selindung people has rejected.

The more important thing is that the majority of Selindung people almost succeed to fail the operation of TIA and some elites, but their sea is still controlled by the sucking boats legally by getting permission from the central government. That means it is clear that they still receive the direct and structural violence.

Based on that condition, What is the resolution relating to the conflict and violence involving the group of fishermen, government, the companies, and people who take side to the mining activity? Before conducting to the central points of the resolution, the researchers learn to understand the concept from Galtung on peace because his idea becomes the basic to formulate the important points on offering the alternatives. Galtung (1969) defines the peace as not having either personal or structural violence. The former is called as a negative peace meaning that there is no personal violence that does not produce a limited positive condition. Meanwhile, the latter is defined as a positive peace meaning if there is no structural violence, the emerge of the social justice that positively limited, that is the egalitarian power and sources.

Further, Galtung states that there are many studies that highlight one aspect of peace, tending to rationalize extremism to the right and left to the 'there is no personal violence' or to the 'social justice'. According to Galtung, if these two extremism are implemented, then







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both will not happen at all. It is because naturally the justice is cared by the means. However, Galtung also says that there is another approach that propose the peace as the effort to make the two aspects happen: a social justice, however it is also interested in the effort to overcome the personal violence. Obviously, Galtung agrees with the latter.

How about the peace or the effort to resolve the conflict in Selindung village? Which pattern it tends to? The researchers argue that obviously it tends to the last pattern of Galtung theory which is trying to have both aspects at the same time. Although when related to Selindung case, the priority can be the positive peace that is a social justice.

The type of direct or personal violence happens when it starts with the structural violence first, that is issuing the government policy that allows the sucking boats operate in the Selindung waters that is supposed to be the fishermen' area. In other words, the injustice in the politic wisdom causes the direct violence toward the fishermen. The resolution of this conflict is a part of Galtung's positive peace.

Referring to the above ideas, there are several points to be applied in order to make a resolution for Selindung village case, namely: *First*, the government better listens to the people aspiration to not allow the policy to make the TIA operating. Next is that the government should let go the resource of tin in Selindung waters although the price can be tempting. They have to issue the policy about the needs of people in majority. This is important to avoid the direct conflict that is more brutal, such as the firing of TIA's equipment, the fighting between the fishermen and the stakeholders or the fishermen and the people who take side to the mining activity. As a result, the analysis shows that although the company and government seduce the people by lots of money and wealth, the people still reject the policy of allowing the sea mining activity. They commit to themselves to explore the waters only for the fishing activity. The government should take a communicative mediation to solve the problem so that there is no continuous conflicts.

The second, if the letter of permission has been expired, the government should not extend the permission for the sake of the people aspiration. People, the fishermen, and the NGO that are concerned already rejecting the operation of the sucking boats in the Selindung







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waters. In the temporary, they still hold themselves because they still follow the law that is giving benefit to the companies. However, in the future they will be able to take an action relating the government ignorance. It can use the violence as they realize they get what so called as an injustice structure.

Third, it should be the third party which mediate the tension among the conflicted parties. Mediation, according to John W. Head in Soemartono, 2006 is a procedure to mediate in which a person as a 'means' to communicate among the parties so that their different perspective can be understood or reconciled. The third party should be neutral such as government or another party which has no relation at all with the targeted issue. In addition, he is the one who has ever got involved as the third party and got successful. This third party is urgently needed for the researchers observe that the segregation between the conflicted party is quite strong. The previous deal has not been successful as the third person is considered as less neutral.

Fourth, it is expected that the government accommodate the people who take side to the mining activity a proper occupation so that there is no more a social jealousy as they feel empowered. They probably do not want to be a fisherman therefore the government should offer the various jobs to do so. It is proper for the government not to ignore the people who take side to the mining activity. As an example, the government through the tourism can accommodate the people to maximize the beach potentials in Selindung village to be a recommended tourism place so that they can earn the money from it.



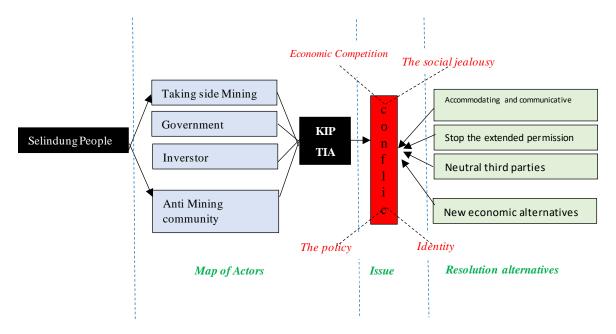




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The map of conflict and resolution alternatives described in below scheme:

Scheme 2. The map of conflict and resolution alternatives



The scheme shows that based on the map of the actors, there are people who take side on mining activity facing the people who are contra. In the middle, there are the investors and government which take their own role. The sucking boats and TIA become the main problem that produce the conflicts with the four main issues namely economic competition, the social jealousy, the political wisdom, and identity. According to the analysis, there are four ideas to offer in solving the problem namely the accommodating and communicative government, stopping the permission if expired, offering the third neutral parties, and the new economic alternatives especially for the people who take side to the mining activity, previously.

4. CONCLUSION

Conflicts and contestations over economic resources in the marine and coastal sectors that occurred in Selindung Hamlet, West Bangka, were basically triggered by two things. *First*, policies on mining at sea that do not accommodate the interests of fishing community groups. *Second*, change in the attitude of the community that originally allowed the







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operation of KIP and TIA after realizing that the sea mining has more harmful that benefit especially for the fishing activity. The conflict develops very dynamically, becomes increasingly complex and involves many parties. From the initial motive, namely the struggle for economic resources in the sea and unfair mining policies, it developed into an issue of social jealousy even spreading into the issue of identity between the locals ad the newcomers.

As for the conflict resolution efforts have been carried out several times, but have not resulted in a comprehensive conflict resolution and really creates peace. From the results of conflict mapping that has been carried out, there are alternative conflict resolutions and efforts to create positive peace according to Johan Galtung, namely (1) the government should listen to the aspirations of the majority of the people and take communicative steps to resolve potential conflicts, (2) After the KIP permit operating in the Selindung sea expires, it should not be continued in order to avoid further conflict with the people in Selindung, (3) There must be a neutral party who becomes a mediator for conflict resolution between the fishermen and the pro-mining community, (4) If it has implemented a policy that contains the aspirations of the fishing community, then the Government should also try to help the small number of people in Selindung who are not fishermen to get a job.

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