# The Implementation of Sekaya Maritim in Muara Village Fishermen Village, Wanasalam District, Lebak Regency, 2000-2018

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## **Abstract**

This article focused on the development of the Fishermen's Village area in Muara Village, Wanasalam District, Lebak Regency during the implementation of the Sekaya Maritim Program from 2000 to 2018. "Sekaya Maritim" stands for *Seribu Kampung Nelayan yang Mandiri, Tangguh, Indah dan Maju*. The program is part of the process and efforts to make fishermen more independent so that they can improve their living standards. The Sekaya Maritim program is implemented in almost all coastal areas of Indonesia, especially fisheries centers. Therefore, Muara Village

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as one of the villages in Lebak Regency became one of the locations for the implementation of Sekaya Maritim. The condition of the community and infrastructure in Muara Village Fishermen Village still needs attention. This is because the level of community welfare is still low and the condition of the infrastructure also looks alarming. Through the historical method, the results show that the implementation of Sekaya Maritim in Muara Village was carried out by providing various assistance and infrastructure development. The various changes that occurred as a result of the Sekaya Maritim Program have at least improved community welfare due to the opening of various accesses for the community and adequate facilities.

**Keywords**: Sekaya Maritim; Development; Fishing community; Muara Village.

#### Introduction

It is common knowledge that the marine and fisheries sector is one of the sources of Indonesia's economy because it is one of the countries with the largest archipelago in the world and is one of the maritime countries. Marine resources are not only limited to fulfill national needs, but also contribute to the welfare of the community, especially fishermen. However, fishing communities still face economic problems on an ongoing basis. In this case, poverty is always attached to this community group, especially for small fishermen who generally still do traditional fishing. They are often marginalized and become victims of various fisheries development and modernization programs. This is certainly different from what is experienced by modern fishermen who are better able to respond to changes and face pressures and changes in the fishing process (Winarno 2011, 6).

Based on data from the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry, the number of villages in Indonesia is 83,881 with 12,857 areas classified as coastal villages (Compilation Team, 2021). It can be said that coastal communities are one of the community groups that experience complicated structural poverty. This is because the poverty experienced is difficult to overcome, especially for people in coastal settlements.

Communities in coastal areas basically carry the burden of life that is uncertain when it will end (Kusnadi 2006, 1).

Several problems in terms of fishermen's welfare, such as economic capability, health level, and so forth are closely related to poverty. In general, fishermen's income is not fixed because it depends on the amount of catch. In other words, the catch and income of fishermen in an area depends on the number of fishermen at the fishing site each day. Therefore, if one area is more densely populated than another, then overfishing is very likely to occur. This then causes fishermen's catch to be lower, which in turn affects fishermen's income (Amraeni & Nirwan 2021, 17).

In general, there have been many studies on fishermen related to the economic disparity of fishermen. One of them is caused by the difficulties faced by fishermen and their families. Dhea (2021) in her study has portrayed the economic development based on the fisheries sector that occurred in the last period of the United Indonesia Cabinet Volume II. The cabinet can be said to have contributed a bad record for the welfare of fishermen. This can be seen from the continued decline in fishermen's welfare. For example, in the first quarter of 2014 when the percentage of fishermen's welfare was at its lowest level. Many argue that towards the end of the term of office of the United Indonesia Cabinet Volume II, the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries needs to strengthen policies that can foster the welfare of fishing communities. Departing from this, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) through the Directorate General of Capture Fisheries has endeavored to build and develop the quality of life of fishermen, especially small-scale fishermen. In this regard, the Directorate General of Capture Fisheries then launched the Development of One Thousand Independent, Resilient, Beautiful, and Advanced Fishing Villages program or Sekaya Maritim for short (Hermawanto 2019, 96).

The Sekaya Maritim development program basically aims to improve the welfare of fishing families. The development is based on sustainable development, so it is expected that when the Sekaya Maritim development is realized, the program can help sustain the fisheries culture. In addition, it is also expected to improve the quality of life of fishing communities not only economically, but also to produce superior human resources. The implementation of Sekaya Maritim has been carried out in various fisheries centers throughout Indonesia.

The Sekaya Maritim Development Program began to be realized in 2015 in various coastal villages that became centers of fisheries activities throughout Indonesia. Lebak District is the only district selected to receive assistance from the Sekaya Maritim program in Banten Province. The Sekaya Maritim program in Lebak was implemented in Muara Village, Wanasalam District. This village is one of the coastal villages in Lebak Regency that has long been known as a fisheries center in the South Lebak region (Hermawanto 2019, 96).

The implementation of the Sekaya Maritim program in Muara Village is expected to improve the welfare of fishermen through the development of village infrastructure and the provision of special assistance to fishermen. However, the fishermen are still grappling with the problem of how to get out of poverty. Therefore, this research focuses on the implementation of the Sekaya Maritim program in Muara Village and its impact on the social life of the community, the majority of whom earn a living as fishermen.

## Method

This study uses the historical method. The historical method is a procedure of the correct ways of obtaining historical truth (Wasino and Hartatik 2018, 11). The historical method includes four steps, heuristics, critique, interpretation, and historiography (Notosusanto 1984, 22-23). Various sources were obtained through various institutions, such as the Lebak

Regency Government, the Lebak Regency Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Lebak Regency Statistics Agency, archives from the Wanasalam Sub-district Statistics Agency, and various archives from the Muara Village Government. In addition, the interview method as an oral source was also used in this study through field research in Muara Village, Wanasalam Sub-district. In addition, several previous studies in the form of books and journal articles were also used to complement this study.

# The Fishing Villages Before Maritime Wealth, 2000-2015

Muara Village is one of the villages in Wanasalam Sub-district, Lebak Regency, Banten. The Lebak region was still included in the administration of Banten Province before Banten was established as a province on its own. When Banten Province was officially formed in 2000, Lebak was then included in the Banten Province area based on Law No. 23 of 2000 concerning the Establishment of Banten Province. The boundaries of Muara Village are bordered by Cipedang Village in the north, directly facing the Indian Ocean in the south, bordered by Wanasalam Village in the east and Cibinuangeun in the west (Muara Village Government 2020, 13).

Muara Village is a coastal village with the majority of the community's livelihood dependent on fishing activities. The distance from the village to the sub-district government center is 11 km with a travel time of approximately one hour by motor vehicle. Meanwhile, the distance to the city government center is 100.2 km with a travel time of approximately five hours by motor vehicle and the distance to the provincial government is 120 km. Muara Village is also a center for buying and selling fishermen's products because the area has a Fish Auction Place (TPI) known as TPI Binuangeun. Initially, there were two TPI Binuangeun although the administrative status was different because they were in different districts, namely Muara Village, Wanasalam Subdistrict, Lebak Regency and Binuangen Village, Cikeusik Subdistrict, Pandeglang Regency. The two places are separated by a river that also divides Lebak and Pandeglang districts. In its development, as a form of efficiency of fishermen's buying and selling transactions, the TPI in Binuangen Village was deactivated and TPI activities were centered in Muara Village. Therefore, the TPI in Muara Village not only functions as a place for buying and selling fish but also develops as a market that provides household needs.

Although Binuangeun TPI has sold household needs, there are still other market activities close to the fish auction in Muara Village. Basically, that existence is a form of positive response to the existence of TPI centered in Muara Village. It is because the community's economic income has also increased and fish marketing has become easier. In addition, other types of businesses have also developed that come from people who are not fishermen, such as traders, motorcycle taxi drivers, and public transportation drivers. Basically, most people in Muara Village work in the fishing sector. Due to the fact that the village area is surrounded by the sea, this encourages the community to utilize the natural resources available. Although the sea provides benefits for fishermen, on the other hand, changing natural conditions can be said to determine the level of income of fishermen or known as the famine period. That situation is certainly a problem for fishermen because it can lead to competition related to fishing among fishermen (Muara Village Government 2020, 12). Therefore, it can be said that fishermen face problems caused by natural and social factors so that they continue to be faced with poverty.

The problems arising from natural factors are caused at certain times by strong winds, large waves and strong currents. Strong sea winds generally occur during the dry season so that the condition is also referred to as the famine period because fishermen cannot carry out activities normally. Therefore, to be able to fulfill the needs of the fishermen, they will

exchange whatever they have with what can be used and needed by other residents. It can be said that this situation has caused social problems due to income inequality among residents, as well as damage to coastal ecosystems. In addition, the low quality of human resources is also a social problem for coastal communities in Muara Village.

Another problem that appears is the unavailability of jobs that can be accessed directly by the community, especially those who make a living as fishermen. The community who works as fishermen still try to get other jobs, such as becoming tourist fishermen, factory laborers, and other jobs. Based on the interview results, until the early 2000s the fishing community was still unable to save money, making it difficult to obtain business capital due to the unavailability of savings and loan institutions such as cooperatives and so on. That problem was resolved yesterday with the arrival of the People's Credit Bank in 2008. However, traditional fishing communities still experience difficulties in obtaining business capital loans because before obtaining loans they are required to submit collateral to savings and loan cooperatives, such as collateral in the form of land deeds or other valuables. On the other hand, these collaterals are not owned by traditional fishers.

The high utilization rate of marine resources in Indonesia is actually not directly proportional to the welfare of fishermen who depend on marine utilization. It can be said that fishing communities in all regions in the archipelago have the same problem, namely poverty. Based on the results of research by Yuliani (2006), the socio-economic conditions of the Wanasalam community in Lebak Regency can be categorized as poor (Yuliani 2006, 118).

In relation to the welfare of fishermen, of course, it cannot be separated from the welfare condition of the fishermen's family. Education is one of the important things to show the level of community welfare in general and determine the economic level of the community. The high level of education pursued by the community can affect the level of community skills as well. These skills can later encourage the growth of entrepreneurial skills. In addition, a high level of skills can create new employment opportunities so as to overcome the high unemployment rate. In this case, education can sharpen the systematic thinking or mindset of individuals. A person can also easily receive further information. The level of education in Muara Village itself can be said to be quite good. This can be seen from the availability of educational opportunities, ranging from early childhood education (PAUD), elementary school, junior high school, to senior high school (Muara Village Government 2020, 38).

Apart from education, the level of health also determines the level of community welfare. It can be said that the level of public health in Muara Village is relatively low compared to the national average. There are several factors that cause poor public health in Muara Village, one of which is the lack of access to health. It is because the village only has one health center, which is located far from the settlement. That situation certainly makes it difficult for the community to get health services, especially in emergency conditions. Another factor that causes poor public health in Muara Village is the quality of nutrition and an irregular diet. Based on interviews, it was found that villagers often consume processed foods that are high in sugar, salt and fat. That habit can lead to chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease. Therefore, the government needs to improve access to health services and promote good eating habits.

## Implementation of Sekaya Maritim in Muara Village

The government has made efforts to overcome poverty in the community, especially in this case the poverty faced by the fishing community in Muara Village. One of the programs carried out by the government as an effort to strengthen the country's economic

independence is Sekaya Maritim. Sekaya Maritim is an implementation of the *nawacita* of President Joko Widodo's administration. *Nawacita* are the nine priorities of national development in the presidential era of Joko Widodo and Jusuf Kalla, which emphasize the welfare and happiness of the people as much as possible (Hastangka 2020, 42-43). Therefore, development can be started by strengthening regions and villages within the framework of a unitary state, improving the quality of life of the Indonesian people, realizing economic independence by mobilizing various strategic sectors of the domestic economy, and carrying out a national character revolution. Therefore, it can be said that the Sekaya Maritim program is an implementation of Presidential Instruction (Inpres) No. 15/2011 on Fishermen Protection and Revitalization of the Fishermen's Life Improvement Program (PKN) which has been stipulated in Presidential Decree (Keppres) No. 10/2011 on the Coordination Team for the Improvement and Expansion of Pro-People Programs and the realization of the Decree of the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (Kepmen KP) Nol.25/Men/2012 on the PKN working group (Hermawanto 2019, 95).

Based on Indonesian capture fisheries statistics, the number of fishermen in Indonesia in 2015 was 2,708,908. Meanwhile, based on data from the 2011 Social Protection Program (PPLS), it is stated that the Target Households (RTS) of poor fishermen amounted to 1,077,272 people or equivalent to 26,109,609 RTS. To reduce the number of poor households, several ministries that are members of the Fishermen's Welfare Improvement (PKN) program have made efforts to alleviate poverty. These efforts are made by improving access to basic services and the quality of life of the poor. However, reflecting on the living conditions of Indonesian fishermen who generally still experience various limitations, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) seeks to provide interventions and facilitate various programs as a form of community empowerment, especially for fishermen groups.

Sekaya Maritim is a form of government support to poor fishermen groups to increase their capacity. In addition, government support also aims to open up access to marketing of products and participate in financing fisheries businesses. Sekaya Maritim can be understood as a process and effort to empower fishermen to improve their standard of living through access to fisheries resources. These efforts are followed by the arrangement of a decent and healthy settlement and village environment. It cannot be separated from the understanding that to break the chain of poverty, it is necessary to create a healthy generation first. The development process needs to place fishermen as the main party or center of the development. In addition, the Sekaya Maritim program is also a process to facilitate and encourage fishermen to be able to place themselves proportionally and become the main actors in utilizing their strategic environment to achieve long-term sustainability. The empowerment of fishing communities is also related to sustainable development, where community empowerment is one of the main requirements.

The Sekaya Maritim program is a bottom-up program, meaning that the program is based on input and suggestions from the community directly so that the program assistance that will be realized is in accordance with the needs of the fishermen. One of the areas targeted to implement the Sekaya Maritim program is Muara Village, Wanasalam District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province. The implementation of the program is through the provision of assistance allocated for the construction of village roads, rehabilitation of drainage in the Binuangeun Fish Landing Base (PPI) area, construction of the Sekaya Maritim Balai building, and the provision of one unit of 12 Gt boat. In addition, the Directorate of Vessels and Fishing Equipment (KAPI) also provided assistance in the form of fishing equipment such as 25 and 15 PK temple engines, trammel nets, demersal hand lines, lights, GPS, and so on. There are at least 14 packages of fishing gear provided to 75 fishermen Joint Business Groups (KUB) in the Sekaya Maritim location. In addition to

construction work, other assistance package plans in the Sekaya Maritim program are assistance sourced from the Directorate of Fishing Business Development (PUPI), such as a one-unit fishing boat motor workshop and one-unit workshop container given to the Muara Teknik KUB in Muara Village. In addition, the government also provided a Smart Fisherman Car (Mobil-NP) facility managed by the Lebak Regency Marine and Fisheries Agency.

The implementation of Sekaya Maritim was then carried out transparently, with an information board in every project implementation. Then, there was also socialization of the value and amount of assistance and openness to the media. Therefore, all information could be accounted for, not only by the government but also together with the Lebak Regency Marine and Fisheries Agency and UPTD PPI Binuangeun, which acted as aid distributors. On the other hand, contractors are also required to submit accountability reports as evidence of the projects undertaken as a form of transparency and openness that includes minutes, documentation, and so on.

# The Impact of Maritime Sekaya in Muara Village Fishermen Village

Infrastructure development in the Fishermen's Village in Muara Village as an implementation of the Sekaya Maritim program, especially that carried out around the Binuangeun PPI, can be said to have proceeded in accordance with the plan prepared by the Directorate General of Capture Fisheries (DG PT) of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia. It can be seen from the success of the development of the Sekaya Maritim Center as a place for training fishermen and improving the infrastructure of fisheries centers.

Infrastructure development is one of the most important aspects in ensuring the success of a nation. Infrastructure is fundamental to the economy and during development, the availability of infrastructure is needed. In addition, infrastructure development has become a demand in itself. Infrastructure development cannot be separated from the needs of government and private investment. Any infrastructure development, especially road development, will have a direct impact on the production of a region (Maimunah 2010, 113). Infrastructure has affected the economy in two ways, directly and indirectly. The direct impact of infrastructure on the economy is the increase in production through the improvement of infrastructure, while the indirect impact is the increase in economic activity, the increase in capital from the private sector and the government, and the application of labor so as to produce higher output (Maimunah 2010, 114). One of the infrastructures built is road infrastructure development. Road infrastructure has played an important role in economic development. The results of the study show that a place with adequate infrastructure will provide easy access to the place so that high productivity is easy to find. At first, the road to PPI Binguangeun was only asphalt with potholes, so when it rains a lot of water will pool along the road. This resulted in the market and Binuangeun PPI looking shabby because there was no drainage around the road leading to Binguangeun PPI or Binuangeun Market. In addition, based on an interview with one of the people in Muara Village, traffic jams also often occur as a result of the poor road access to Binuangeun PPI, especially when entering the holiday season and many tourists visit Binuangeun PPI to shop for fresh fish. However, after the road improvements made by the government and the creation of drainage, the road conditions to the PPI have become better.

The road improvements did not directly increase the number of visitors who bought fish, resulting in an increase in sales. The increase is not based on the number of buyers but is influenced by the increase in fish prices. On the other hand, the improved road access also affects transportation costs and the sales price of ice blocks.

Before the Balai Sekaya Maritim building, fishermen had no place to develop their skills. Commonly, when there was training organized by the district, provincial, or central government, the training location for fishermen was at the Muara Village Hall located at Binuangeun - Malingping Km 01 road. In accordance with an interview with the Head of the Binuangeun PPI, Ahmad Hadi, it was also mentioned that the building also functions as a meeting place for fishermen and can be used by the general public if they want to borrow the building hall as a place to carry out various activities. The construction location of the Sekaya Maritim Building is not far from the Binuangeun PPI. The distance is estimated to be approximately 1.8 km and directly adjacent to the coastline.

The provision of other facilities, such as the Smart Fisherman Car, certainly provides benefits that can be felt directly by fishermen. The benefit of the existence of the Mobil-PN is as a place for fishermen to make a fisherman card. Prior to the facility, fishermen had to travel long distances to the regency capital to obtain a fisherman card. In at least one round trip, the fishermen had to bring approximately IDR 400,000 for their accommodation costs. However, with the existence of the Fisherman Smart Car, fishermen are helped, not only for fishermen in Muara Village but including fishermen in the South coastal area. Therefore, it can be said that the benefits of providing these services are beneficial to the wider community. Infrastructure development in various fields has also encouraged the emergence of several institutions as a follow-up to the assistance provided by the government. One of them is the realization of assistance provided for the Fishermen Joint Business Group (KUB), namely the inauguration of the Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative on February 12, 2016. The cooperative is an official institution under legal entity No. 02/BH/DINKOP/IX/11/2016. In this case, the Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative functions as a buffer for the Fishermen's KUB for the Muara Village community. Based on the results of the interview, it was also stated that the formation of the cooperative was also established based on the wishes of the local community as an effort to develop business in the fisheries sector while improving people's welfare. Furthermore, in 2018, the number of members of Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative has reached 627 people and the majority work as fishermen with collective and individual members. There are 51 KUBs, each consisting of 9 members and a group leader. While the other 71 people are individual members (Koperasi Mina Muara Sejahtera 2019, 9). The existence of these individual members shows that the community can easily actively participate in Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative.

Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative also has a vision to realize an independent and productive cooperative as an effort to ensure the welfare of the fishing community. As an effort to achieve this vision, Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative has several business units such as savings and loans, fish auction, capture fisheries, aquaculture, integrated fisheries, and Brilink agents or in collaboration with BRI Bank. One of the fish traders at PPI Binuangeun, Wading Riana, mentioned that achieving the common goal of the cooperative can be done by communicating with each other. In this case, the cooperative becomes a social entity in the community that is formal in nature.

It can be said that the Sekaya Maritim Program is the flagship program of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia. This is evident from some of the direct effects of the implementation of the Sekaya Maritim program, such as the increase in fish production due to the assistance of the latest fishing gear to fishermen. In addition, the Sekaya Maritim program is also supported in the form of providing facilities and infrastructure, such as modern fishing boats, environmentally friendly nets, and other fishing gear in accordance with international standards in the field of fisheries. It certainly facilitates the fishing process of the fishermen.

Agus, as one of the Muara Sari KUB members who received a 12 GT boat and one of the recipients of the fishing gear assistance package donated from the Directorate of Vessels

and Fishing Equipment (KAPI), revealed that the direct effect he felt with his fishing friends was an increase in the number of fish catches. The 12 Gt vessel provided by the government has produced more fish catches even though it requires longer fishing time and more capital when going to sea.

Members of the Muara Teknik KUB also received assistance with a package of workshop containers and a fisherman's motor workshop. He mentioned that the assistance provided helped him to survive. The workshop package provided is indeed quite complete, even some workshop tools that previously did not exist have also been available. With the motorcycle workshop, fishermen can repair and maintain their equipment more easily and quickly. It certainly helps them to keep their equipment in good condition so that they can go to sea without a hitch. In addition, motorcycle repair shops also facilitate accessibility for fishermen when there is a breakdown or accident at sea. They do not have to wait for a long time to get help since there are already available service facilities close to their residence or harbor.

On the other side, some people did not receive assistance from the Sekaya Maritim program, such as Nasir, a fisherman who owns a 3 GT boat (Taweu). Based on the interview results, Nasir said that he also felt the impact of infrastructure development around the port. Although he did not receive the donations, he also felt the positive impact of infrastructure development through the provision of easier access and facilities. It also affected the level of sales of the catches of his crew. Nasir also mentioned that with the existence of a fishing boat motor workshop, he received assistance from other fishermen who received assistance with a fishing boat motor workshop. Therefore, although the distribution of support for the fishing boat motor repair shop is not given to all parties, the benefits can be felt by the wider community.

## Conclusion

The infrastructure condition of Muara Village Fishing Village before receiving assistance and development can be said to be inadequate. Some of these shortcomings can be seen from the poor road access to PPI Binuangeun and the unavailability of drainage, which disrupts fish sales at TPI Binuangeun. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the fishermen do not have facilities and infrastructure that support fishermen's activities other than at TPI and UPTD PPI Binuangeun. Infrastructure development in Muara Village began when the Sekaya Maritim program was implemented by the central government together with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The Sekaya Maritim program in Muara Village consists of three main programs, namely, the provision of 12 GT boats, rehabilitation of drainage around TPI Binuangeun, and improvement of road access around PPI Binuangeun. In addition, a fishermen training building known as the Balai Sekaya Maritim Building was also constructed. These programs are supported by the provision of fishing gear package assistance for fishermen from KAPI, a Smart Fisherman Car, and the provision of fishermen container boat motor workshop packages from PUPI.

The Sekaya Maritim program is not only carried out by providing various assistance and infrastructure development but also by establishing the Mina Muara Sejahtera Cooperative. The establishment of the cooperative institution is an impact of the Sekaya Maritim program so that the fishing community gets assistance, especially in terms of capital. The existence of the Muara Sejahtera Mina Cooperative with several business units under it can encourage the activities or businesses of its members, both individuals and those who are members of the Joint Business Group (KUB). It can be said that the Sekaya Maritim Program has a positive impact on the lives of fishing communities. This can be seen from the level of family welfare that has increased. The increase in welfare can be seen from

changes in the number of RTP and RTBP, the increase in the number of permanent community buildings, and the ownership of transportation equipment used by fishermen during the production process. The level of welfare can also be seen from the level of education and health, although both are not significantly affected.

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