

## Community Response to Mining Business: Case Study on Romang Island Southwest Maluku Regency

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### Abstract

Mining businesses can have a positive or negative impact on the surrounding community. This study aims to analyze the community's response to the mining business on Romang Island, Southwest Maluku Regency. The population in this study is the Romang Island community which is mapped out against and supports spread over the three villages, namely, Solath, Jerusu, and Hila with a total sample of 52 people. The results of the study indicate that there are public expectations of the company to pay attention to their welfare through various efforts, including: paying attention to the representation of the community working in the company, paying attention to the process of community empowerment, paying attention to educational and health facilities and infrastructure, as well as paying attention to the existence of the environment so that it does not harm the community. The behavior of the farming community towards PT. Gemala Borneo Utama (GBU) 86.54% strongly supports the company's presence, supported by the perception of respondents 53.85 percent indicating the availability of jobs, 23.07 percent indicating an increase in people's income, 9.62 percent stating an increase in accessibility.

### Keywords

response; community; mining; Romang island



## I. Introduction

Southwest Maluku is one of the regencies in Maluku Province which was established by Law Number 31 of 2008. The geographical location of the Southwest Maluku region is a strategic potential to support the interaction of the Southwest Maluku region with outside regions, both inside and outside the regional, national and international scale, especially with the support of sea and air transportation.

Romang Island is included in the Romang Archipelago District, which is one of the newly divided sub-districts from its parent sub-district, namely the Southern Islands District based on the Southwest Maluku Regent Decree No. but it is the ulayat/customary rights of the three villages of Solath, Hila and Jerusu, which are on Romang Island.

PT. Gemala Borneo Utama (GBU) is one of the companies that carry out mining activities on Romang Island. The existence of PT. Gemala Borneo Utama (GBU) on Romang Island, Romang Archipelago District brought a positive impact on the social community on Romang Island where the community on Romang Island was impacted by the presence of PT. The main Borneo Gemala (GBU) is an increase in the income and purchasing power of the people on Romang Island.

Yuniarti (2019), explained that one of the issues of implementing CSR ( *Corporate Social Responsibility* ) that has become a concern in Indonesia is the discovery of the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) related to environmental pollution of PT. Freeport Indonesia. The results of the BPK audit in 2018 stated that PT. Freeport Indonesia has caused large-scale environmental damage due to the disposal of mining operational *tailings* in rivers, forests, estuaries, and has even reached marine areas. This is certainly detrimental to the surrounding community who use the river as a source of water to meet the needs of life, as well as other components that are essential for the life of the people in the area.

The results of research by Pattiselanno and Putuhena (2018), show that there is a change in community activities on Romang Island after the mining company, causing land transformation and job changes from agriculture in general to casual daily workers from mining companies. In addition, there is an increase in people's income after working in a mining company with a fixed income every month.

Martinez (2016) found that population growth was greater as well as land area for grazing, cereal crops, annual plantings, and plantations were higher in areas with better market access. Better transport infrastructure, zoning regulations, agricultural savings and loan mechanisms, and risk of climate variability, have a significant impact on the configuration of agricultural landscapes. However, Amato *et al* (2016) confirmed it as a negative development that occurred after the industrialization of plantations, and the consequence of this problem is a decrease in land productivity and a decrease in environmental quality.

Friss and Nielsen (2016) in Laos observe that investors have created a network of local intermediaries that facilitate direct negotiations on land trade at the village level, and allow investors to avoid government intervention. Such an informal acquisition process is fast and successful, and it changes land use. Similar findings are shared by Santana-Cordero *et al* (2016), and it is stated that different land uses will have different impacts on the environment and socio-economic direct community demands. Bieling Research *et al* (2013), is one of the important references on how influential land use and land cover changes have on human welfare. The community considers this reference a hot topic for discussion. Several previous studies found this topic interesting because it is related to the fact that mining activities will absorb labor.

The existence of mining companies on Romang Island has various impacts on people's lives. Although company presence on the island romance it's been a long time, however so far this not yet is known impact certain consequence mine to social aspects and economy public. Therefore, research This is intended to analyze community response to the company PT. Gemala Borneo Utama.

## II. Research Method

The research will be carried out on the Island Romang in February to April 2021. The population in this study is the people on Romang Island who have been involved in differences of opinion about the gold mine, namely groups that support and groups that do not support.

The research sample is as much as 10 percent in each group, which is determined at simple random (Sugiyono, 2011). The research sample was then divided into: 10 people for Solath Village, 22 people for Jerusu Village, and 20 people for Hila Village, so the total sample was 52 people. Data analysis was carried out using the Qualitative Analysis Method

### III. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Characteristics of Respondents

##### a. Age

Age is one of the important factors that affect the activities of human life, especially matters related to the physical aspect (energy). Chaniago (2002) divides the age group into three groups, namely young age or unproductive age (0-14 years), mature age or productive age (15-64 years), and old or unproductive age, namely 65 years and over. Characteristics of respondents based on age can be seen in table 1.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Age

Category Age (Years)	Amount	(%)
> 15-64	51	98
65	1	2
Total	52	100

*Source: Processed Research Results (2021)*

Table 1 shows that farmers in the Romang Islands are of a productive age where at this age they are physically able to carry out farming activities and various other businesses to fulfill their household needs.

##### b. Level of education

Education is often interpreted as a human effort to foster his personality in accordance with the values in society and culture. Furthermore, education is defined as an effort carried out by another person or group of people in order to become an adult or reach a higher level of life or livelihood in a mental sense (Hasbullah, 2008). The high average level of public education is very important for the nation's readiness to face global challenges in the future. A higher level of education will make it easier for a person or society to absorb information and implement it in daily behavior and lifestyle, especially in terms of health. The level of formal education forms value for a person, especially in accepting new things (Suhardjo, 2007).

**Table 2.** Distribution of Respondents by Education Level

Formal education	Number of Respondents	Percentage(%)
SD	7	12
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	28	54
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	16	32
Academic/PT	1	2
<b>Amount</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data Processed 2021*

Table 2, shows that respondents have very little education at the elementary school (SD) level, junior high school education (SMP) , high school education (SMA) , and academic or college education.

Based on the data above, it can be said that the education level of respondents on Romang Island, Romang Archipelago District is still low, which is only limited to junior high and high school benches, even though it is limited to SPM and SMA. But they are not left behind with information.

This is in line with the opinion of Samsudin (1987) and Soekartawi (1993) who say that formal education is the most important part in shaping a person's attitude, because through formal education the person has good knowledge about something. This question is also supported by Mar'at (1988), which says that knowledge is one of the components of attitude-forming, this knowledge is obtained through various information received from various parties, so that if the information received by a person is negative, then he will reject it. to support and implement the information because what is created is positive knowledge as well so that it will produce an attitude that supports the information.

### c. Number of Family Members

The number of respondent's family members reflects one's ability as the head of the family in dealing with family members. The number of family members becomes important to be taken into account, especially in relation to the total income obtained from the number of people who work in the company, who agree with the company and those who disagree with the company. The number of small family members (4 people), and the number of medium family members (5-7 people).

**Table 3.** Distribution of Respondents by Number of Family Members.

Number of Dependent Family Members (Persons)	Number of people	Percentage(%)
Small 4	42	81
Currently 5-7	10	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data Processed 2021*

Table 3 shows that respondents who have a moderate number of family members are more than respondents who have a small number of family members. Respondents who have a small number of family members can meet every need for their family members, while large family members with the addition of family members will of course increase the burden of life, be it consumption needs, educational needs, household needs, and so on. In line with the opinion (Dillon and Scandizzo, 1978 in Soekartawi, 1997), the more the number of family members, the greater the demand for needs. So farmers must be really careful in acting.

### d. Land area

Land area is an important factor that affects the size of the resulting production. If the farmer's land area is large enough, then the economic opportunity to increase production and income will be greater (Soekartawi, 2006). The economic condition of the population is a condition that describes human life that has economic score (Shah et al, 2020). Hermanto (1996), divided the land area into 3 categories, namely narrow land area (<0.5 ha), medium land area (0.5-2.0 ha) and large land area (> 2.0 ha).

**Table 4.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Land Area

Land Area (ha)	Amount	(%)
Narrow (<0.5)	8	0.15
Medium (0.5-2)	7	0.13
Area (>2)	37	0.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Processed Research Results (2021)*

Table 4 describes the land area of farmers in the Romang Islands is classified as narrow (<0.5 ha). This shows that the level of production of farmers is small so that the income obtained also has an effect. As is known, the greater the level of production, the greater the level of acceptance obtained.

### 3.2 Response Groups agree and disagree with mining companies

Response / response is a feeling or a detailed understanding of the ideas of a particular matter. Seeing the attitude of a person or group of people towards something, it will be known how they respond or respond to certain conditions. Attitudes can be known through influence or rejection, judgments like or dislike, positive or negative. The following is the approval of community groups towards mining companies on Romang Island, as shown in the following table:

**Table 5.** Distribution of Respondents' Consent to Mining Companies.

Community Group	Number of people)	Percentage (%)
Approval		
Agree	34	65
Don't agree	18	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data Processed 2021*

Table 5 shows that most of the respondents agree with the existence of a mining company. There is also disagreement because there has been no compensation and Romang Island is one of the islands that is categorized as a small island. Respondents who agree have received compensation in accordance with their wishes.

### 3.3 Household Receipt

Revenue is the result of the income earned by each household. Farming revenue is the multiplication between the production obtained and the selling price (Rahim and Hastuti, 2007).

**Table 6.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Household Income

Household Receipt (Rupiah per Month)	Amount	(%)
>Rp. 2,641,961 (above UMR)	19	47
< Rp. 2,400,000	18	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Processed Research Results (2021)*

Table 6 illustrates that the majority of respondents received more than Rp. 2,400,000 with a percentage of 80.8%. This shows that the household income obtained by the respondent is able to meet their household needs, because the income obtained is greater than the 2020 UMR stipulation by the government, which is Rp. 2.400.000 (Circular Letter of the Minister of Manpower Number M/11/HK.04/X/2020 of 2020 concerning Determination of Provincial Minimum Wage in 2021. This revenue shows that most respondents have better income.

The amount of income obtained by farmer households is dominated by income from outside their farming activities. That is, more contributed by side jobs such as fishing and services.

### 3.4 Type of Work

Work is the main activity that a person does to earn money, where the results of the work are used to meet various needs of life. Jobs are divided into two types, namely jobs that produce products and those that produce services.

**Table 7.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Occupation

Type of work	Amount	(%)
Farmer	26	50
Fisherman	2	35
Employee	25	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: *Processed Research Results (2021)*

Based on the results of the respondents according to the table above, the work of farmers is more dominant than employees and fishermen. Thus, it is farmers who really feel the impact of changes in the presence of PT, Gemala Burneo Utama on Romang Island.

### 3.5 Respondent Behavior

Respondent behavior shows involvement respondents continuously with the Company's activities. Activities that are directly related to work, or in the form of indirect activities that have an impact on development in the village. The behavior of respondents towards the Company's planned activities can be seen in the following table.

**Table 8.** Respondents' Behavior about the Company 's Plan of Activities

Respondent's Opinion	Amount			Total	%
	Prayers	Hila	jerusu		
Agree	8	15	22	45	86.54
Don't agree	2	5	0	7	13.46
Total	10	20	22	52	100.0

Source: *Research Results (Processed, 2021)*

Based on the attitude shown by the respondents, it can be assumed that the behavior of the respondents towards the development plan. The concept of behavior in this study is seen from the involvement of respondents in development plans. The results show that, in principle, most communities want to be involved in development plans for various reasons. In general, the community has high hopes for the company to pay attention to their welfare through various efforts, including: paying attention to the representation of the community working in the company, paying attention to the community empowerment process, paying attention to educational and health facilities and infrastructure, as well as paying attention to the existence of the environment so that it does not harm the community. That is, if the company is able to carry out the aspirations of the community, it is certain that the community will continue to behave in support of the implementation of development.

## IV. Conclusion

The behavior of the farming community towards PT. Gemala Borneo Utama (GBU) 86.54% strongly supports the company's presence, supported by the perception of respondents 53.85 percent indicating the availability of jobs , 23.07 percent indicating an increase in people's income , 9.62 percent stating an increase in accessibility .

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