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Aneka Tambang Pomalaa Dynamics: A Historical Perspective

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Abstract. This journal discusses the discovery of the nickel mine in Pomalaa and the impact of the Foreign Investment Law on the mine. This research uses the historical method through the stages of finding sources (heuristic), validating historical sources (source criticism), interpretation, and summarizing the results of analysis and sources that have been found (historiography). The results of this study show that the Pomalaa nickel mine is the result of exploration by Dutch mineral and geological experts in the early 20th century. Japan was also involved in mining development between 1947-1950. After Indoneisa's independence, the government took over and came under PT Pertambangan Nikel Indonesia. The management of nickel then involved government cooperation with the private sector after the Investment Law in 1967. After the law was issued, the development of the Pomalaa nickel mine was increasingly significant until it became PT Aneka Tambang Tbk. the dynamics of the mining sector were seen when the government gave priority rights to mining companies to explore minerals and coal in Indonesian territory. This change aims to strengthen community mining.

Keywords: *Nickel Mining, Pomalaa, Government*

1 Introduction

Nickel is a naturally occurring metallic element characterized by a shiny, silver-white color. Nickel is one of the five most commonly found metal elements, especially in the earth's crust. Because it is a type of metal, nickel is a fairly good conductor or conductor of electricity and heat. In 933 existing nickel resources, 60% are in the form of laterite and 40% are in the form of sulfide deposits. Laterite nickel is formed from the weathering process of ultrabasic rocks, in this case harzburgite rocks. These rocks contain a lot of olivine, pyroxene, magnesium silicate and iron, these minerals are unstable and easily weathered.[1]

Indonesia has nickel mines spread across seven provinces in Indonesia. Of the total world nickel production that reached 2.7 million tons in 2019, Indonesia is still in the first place regarding mining mineral production. This can be seen from the 2020 United States Geological Survey (USGS) report. Apart from excelling as a producer, Indonesia is listed as the owner of the world's largest nickel reserves in 2022, reaching 21 million metric tons. Its position is equivalent to Australia. This means that Indonesia and Australia each account for 21% of total global nickel reserves throughout the year. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) noted that Indonesia has nickel mines covering 520,877.07 hectares (ha). The mines are located in Maluku, North Maluku, Papua, West Papua, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi. Southeast Sulawesi itself has the largest nickel mine in Indonesia with an area of 198,624.66 ha. One of them is located in Konawe Regency, with a mining area of 21,100 ha.

Southeast Sulawesi consists of a large area of land and islands, containing various mining products, namely asphalt and nickel, as well as a number of other minerals. Based on the results of discussions at the Indonesian Young Geoscientists Forum which discussed the distribution of nickel reserves in Indonesia, there are at least four factors that make the soil in the Sulawesi region and in other parts of Eastern Indonesia contain a lot of nickel, the first, geological factors. The Sulawesi and Eastern Indonesia region was formed from the seabed and shaped by intensive tectonic activity. This process creates unique geological conditions, such as magma domes, subduction zones and sea rifts. These conditions make nickel deposits possible, resulting from intensive volcanic and hydrothermal activity. Second, the hydrothermal environment. Nickel deposits are concentrated in hydrothermal environments produced by volcanic eruptions and volcanic activity. These environments are rich in metals and minerals, such as nickel, copper and gold. The Sulawesi and Eastern Indonesia region has several active volcanoes and subduction zones that allow the formation of hydrothermal environments rich in metals and minerals. Third, temperature and rainfall. Sulawesi and Eastern Indonesia have a tropical climate, with high temperatures and ample rainfall. These conditions create an ideal environment for the growth of vegetation and plantations, such as coconut and palm oil. These agricultural activities require fertilizers that are rich in nutrients, including nickel so that indirectly, these fertilizers disperse nickel minerals in the soil, which can then be recovered and used in production. Fourth, mining activities. This activity has been carried out since the Dutch colonial era, and was further strengthened by Indonesia's national industrial development policy. Hypothetical resources of nickel minerals, amounting to more than 97.4 billion wet metric tons, are spread across the districts of North Konawe, Konawe, South Konawe, Bombana, North Kolaka, Buton, Baubau City and Kolaka, especially Pomalaa sub-district, which has many impacts on the surrounding community.

2 Research Method

This research uses a historical research method with a descriptive analysis approach and uses a writing system that refers to historical methodology. This research method begins with heuristics, where the author collects data/sources, this stage plays an important role in knowing the facts about the events to be written. The sources or data commonly used are oral sources (primary data) and written sources (secondary data). Oral sources are the results of interviews or information obtained from people who experienced the event or event directly or indirectly. What is meant indirectly here is that the person being interviewed may be a descendant or close relative of the person who experienced the historical event, or other figures. They are referred to as sources. In this case, the author will conduct interviews with several sources who have worked (retirees) at PT Aneka Tambang in its early days, senior employees who are still actively working today, local community leaders, and also residents who have lived for a long time around the mining area. Sources are required to provide correct, logical

and accurate information or data in accordance with the theme discussed. Meanwhile, written sources can come from records in the past that can still be found today. Examples include documents, photographs, inscriptions, charters, manuscripts, newspapers, reports, and so on. In this paper the author also uses several sources obtained from online/offline bookstores, from internet sites, from libraries, and from journals related to the author's research.

In the second stage, the author begins to verify, namely conducting source criticism on the sources that have been collected. Source criticism is carried out to select which data is in accordance with the title chosen by the author, then select the most relevant sources to use. At this stage, the aspect that is criticized is the authenticity of the source and the level of truth of the information obtained. There are two types of source verification, namely internal verification and external verification. Internal verification is a test of the authenticity of historical sources that refers to the content of the source, while external verification refers to the materials used in making the source.

The third stage is interpretation, in which the author will analyze or interpret the meaning of historical sources or information that has been obtained based on a scientific point of view. The interpretation carried out by the author must be based on an objective nature. The historical events presented must produce true history or close to the truth. In that sense, the interpretation carried out by the researcher must not deviate or deviate from the actual events. There are two ways to do this interpretation stage, namely by analyzing and synthesizing. The method of analysis is to describe the facts that have been obtained previously, while the method of synthesis is to unite these facts.

The fourth stage is historiography. This stage is the end of the stages of historical research methods, where the author summarizes all the results of data analysis and sources obtained, into a work in the form of scientific writing. This last stage is writing or assembling the facts that have been obtained to be poured into a critical historical writing[2] .The results of the description are summarized in a research study. By using the historical method, it is attempted that every historical writing leads to the reconstruction of past events.

3 Results and Discussion

Indonesia's nickel mining history began in 1901 in the Verbeek Mountains in Sulawesi. It was first discovered by a Dutch mineralogist named Kruyt and soon became the first nickel mining area. Then in 1909, E.C Abendanon, who was a Dutch geologist, discovered nickel ore in Pomalaa, Kolaka Regency, Southeast Sulawesi [3]. Meanwhile, according to Bachrawi Sanusi in his writing "The Future of Indonesian Nickel" in the Opinion section of Kompas daily, Monday, March 28, 1977, revealed that nickel ore in Indonesia was discovered for the first time in the Sulawesi region in 1917 by the Mining Jawatan which at that time conducted exploration. In 1935, Boni Tolo Maatschappij, a subsidiary of Oost Borneo Maatschappij, conducted exploration around Pomalaa, Kolaka, Maniang Island and Lemo Island. The exploration found large ore deposits. In 1936-1941, simple and selective nickel ore mining began. In 1942-1945, the mining business was expanded to Maniang Island.

According to the Indonesian Nickel Miners Association (2018), at the end of World War II, Japan built a nickel matte factory in Pomalaa. After Indonesian independence, between 1947-1950, the US company Freeport Sulphur Company (FSC), which later merged with Oost Borneo Maatschappij, attempted to mine nickel. However, security conditions were a major obstacle so that both Japanese and US companies were unsuccessful. In 1957, mining was undertaken by NV PERTO (Toraja Mining). Then in 1961, the company was taken over by the government and the business was continued by PT Pertambangan Nikel Indonesia (state-owned). In 1962, the BPU of the State General Mining Company and PT Pertambangan Nikel Indonesia signed a contract with Sulawesi Nickel Development Co Ltd (Sunideco) to work on nickel development in Pomalaa, Kolaka. In 1968, the State General Mining Company (BPU) was transformed into the State Company (PN) Aneka Tambang and PT Pertambangan Nikel Indonesia became the Pomalaa Nickel Mining Unit. In June 1974, PN Aneka Tambang became a state-owned company, PT Aneka Tambang [4].

In Southeast Sulawesi, nickel resources are found in Pomalaa with reserves of 1.37 million tons, while Maniang Island has reserves of 62,000 tons. Kompas Daily, Wednesday, June 15, 1977, reported that the Minister of Mining (at that time) Prof. Sadli said that Indonesia has the largest nickel reserves in the world. About 15% of all nickel reserves in the world are in Indonesia. In 1967, the Indonesian government offered foreign nickel entrepreneurs who were interested in processing nickel mines in lakes in Southeast Sulawesi. The Minister of Mining (at that time) Ir Bratanata, Wednesday, May 10, 1967, then officially opened the tender

to foreign investors in a meeting with representatives of the Embassies of friendly countries in Jakarta. Ir Bratanata invited foreign entrepreneurs to submit bids to the Indonesian Government before October 30, 1967. Bratanata as reported in the Kompas daily, Thursday, May 11, 1967, said that the wealth contained in the Indonesian earth was abundant, but due to the difficulty of the cost of processing it, Indonesia invited foreign entrepreneurs to invest. The offer to foreign investors, said Bratanata, was to implement Law Number 1 of 1967 concerning Foreign Investment for economic development. In the Foreign Investment Law, it was stated that foreign capital investment in mining must be in the form of a joint venture with the government, based on a "contract of work". By May 1967, there were 15 nickel entrepreneurs from a number of countries who submitted bids to process nickel mines in Southeast Sulawesi. Four of the 15 nickel entrepreneurs were the largest nickel entrepreneurs in the world. The Indonesian government would select the most bona fide entrepreneur who could provide terms favorable to Indonesia [4].

PT Aneka Tambang Tbk or commonly abbreviated as ANTAM was officially established as a State-Owned Enterprise on July 05, 1968, by merging several national mining companies that produced a single commodity. Established in 1968, PT Antam is a state-owned enterprise formed from the merger of several state-owned mining companies and projects, namely the State General Mining Company, State Bauxite Mining Company, State Gold Mining Company Tjikotok, State Precious Metal Company, PT Nickel Indonesia, Intan Project and other projects under Bapetamb. Based on the Company's Articles of Association, ANTAM's scope of activities is in the mining of various types of minerals, and conducts business in the industry, trade, transportation and mining services sectors. ANTAM's main services are precious metal processing and refining and geological services.

ANTAM is part of Mining Industry Indonesia (MIND ID), which is primarily engaged in nickel, bauxite and gold mining. ANTAM is a diversified and vertically integrated export-oriented mining company. Through operating areas spread across mineral-rich Indonesia, ANTAM's activities include exploration, mining, processing and marketing of nickel ore, ferronickel, gold, silver, bauxite and coal commodities. ANTAM has loyal long-term customers in Europe and Asia. Given the vast area of mining concessions and the large amount of reserves and resources owned, ANTAM formed several joint ventures with international partners to be able to utilize existing reserves into profitable mines. Along with technological developments, nickel mining activities continue to grow and develop, generating significant exports for the national economy.

Based on Government Regulation No. 22 of 1968, which states that PT Antam was established as a State Company (PN) Aneka Tambang on July 5, 1968. The change of status from a State Company to a limited liability company (PT) was then made to adapt to the changing business climate. This change was based on Government Regulation No. 26 of 1974 dated June 14, 1974. This regulation became the basis for the issuance of a notarial deed from Notary Warda Sungkar Alurmei regarding the articles of association of Aneka Tambang on December 30, 1974. The change in Aneka Tambang's legal status from PN to PT became the basis for celebrating December 30 as PT Antam's anniversary.

In 1976, ANTAM's FeNi I Plant in Pomalaa began commercial operations, and in 1979, the company also began operating a nickel mine on Gebe Island. In 1994, the company began operating a gold mine in Pongkor, and a year later, the company also began operating the FeNi II Plant in Pomalaa commercially. On November 27, 1997, the company was officially listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange and Surabaya Stock Exchange. A year later, the company also began operating a nickel mine on Gebe Island.

However, since around the beginning of 1997, before ANTAM entered the stock exchange, the company's internal environment began to change its anniversary from December 30 to commemorate it on July 5. The change was based on the reason that July 5, 1968 was the day PN Aneka Tambang was established as a company resulting from the merger of various mining companies owned by the State of Indonesia. Activities to expand the operations of the ferronickel plant were also carried out in Pomalaa, Southeast Sulawesi, which finally became operational. Finally, 1997 was a milestone for ANTAM because in this year 35% of its shares were offered to the public.

A new perception emerged, that the anniversary of ANTAM Company was since it was formed into a single business entity from the previous semi-holding led by a quasi-corporate institution. Such companies focus more on social goals or public benefit rather than profit-making. This includes social and educational institutions that carry out activities for the benefit of the general public. Profit is sometimes not a top priority, and these companies may even incur losses to maintain their social mission. ANTAM contributes in supporting the

achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) realized through the company's devotion and service in the midst of society. Along the way, ANTAM has had a direct impact on the growth of communities around its operational areas, as well as bringing tangible benefits to the environment [5]. Through the implementation of the Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSR) program, ANTAM strives to empower the surrounding community, and preserve the environment for the future of the nation's next generation.

4 Conclusion

The Dutch exploration of Indonesia's soil during their colonial period resulted in the discovery of nickel mines, especially in the Pomalaa area, Southeast Sulawesi. After Indonesian independence, all natural resources were taken over by the government and to develop them the government issued the Investment Law in 1967 under the official name PT Aneka Tambang Tbk. The dynamics of the Company's management can be seen from the alternating transfer of power between the center and the regions. In its development. PT Aneka Tambang Tbk became a single business entity that began to explore social aspects or public benefits rather than generating only profits.

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